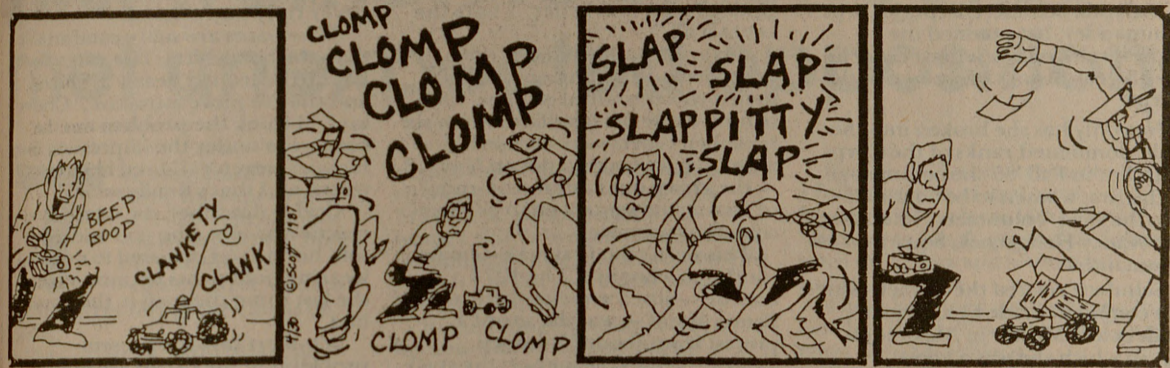


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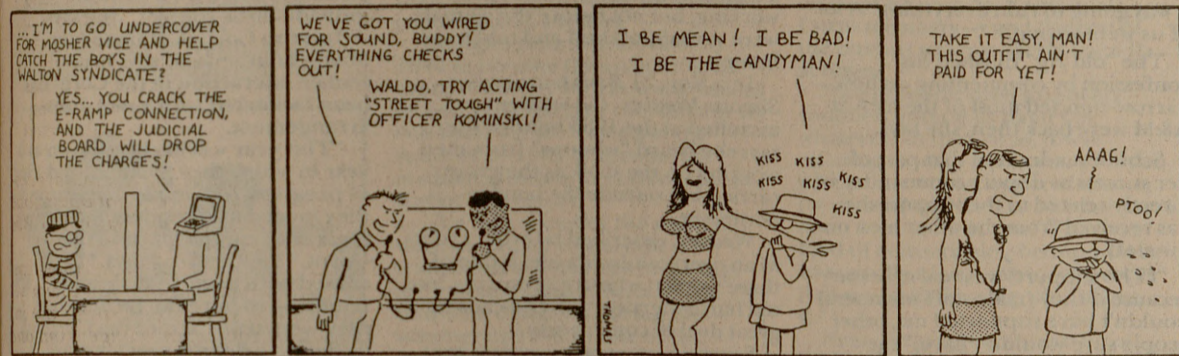


by Scott McCullar **Grand jury indictments tossed out**

AUSTIN (AP) — A Travis County grand jury was dismissed two months early and a judge tossed out its 120 to 150 indictments after it was discovered that one member had been indicted by an earlier grand jury on a theft charge. "It's just one of those things that pops up on occasion," said State District Judge Bob Jones. Among qualifications to serve on a grand jury is a requirement that members not be under indictment for theft or any felony.

Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Carolyn Jean Alvarez, 23, was a member of the grand jury empaneled by Jones on April 1. District court records showed that she was named in a Feb. 5 indictment on a charge of aggravated theft over \$750 but less than \$20,000. On Monday, Alvarez was arrested and booked into the Travis County Jail on the felony theft charge. Prosecutors said they learned of her arrest after she told officers she had to be released in time for the Tuesday grand jury meeting.

New concept in water conservation incorporates creative landscaping

By John Marr
Reporter

During the hot summer months, many homeowners are forced to watch their lush yards wither and turn brown because of local water restrictions. However, a relatively new concept allows homeowners, businesses and cities to maintain a beautiful landscape while conserving water.

Xeriscape, the conservation of water through creative landscaping, can help eliminate outdoor water waste while maintaining healthy landscapes.

Dr. Harlow Landphair, professor of landscape architecture at Texas A&M, says, "Sixty percent of summer water use is on traditional landscapes and is usually inefficiently applied."

Xeriscape incorporates three basic principles of water conservation:

- The use of more effective and efficient irrigation systems.
- The use of mulches and soil preparation to conserve moisture.
- The use of lower water-demanding plants.

Mark Vaughan, landscape architect, says sprinkler irrigation is probably the most commonly used method of watering.

"The major advantage of the sprinkler is that it allows water to be evenly spread over a large area," Vaughan says, but he cautions people against overwatering.

"People should maintain their sprinklers and move them when the water starts to run over the curb or sidewalk," he says.

For effective watering of mixed landscape (trees, shrubs, vines) and flower beds, xeriscape emphasizes the use of drip irrigation. Drip irrigation slowly applies water to the

plant's root area and reduces evaporation. A layer of mulch over the irrigation system will further help to conserve water, Vaughan says, and add to the overall beauty of the landscape.

The selection of a grass for the landscape is one of the most important processes in xeriscape. Landphair says grasses, such as St. Augustine, require the most water and maintenance of all landscape plants and significant reduction in water use can only be achieved by reducing the area occupied by grass.

A South/Central Texas Xeriscape spokesman suggested the use of patios, decks and mulches as alternatives to planting grass.

John Thomas, owner of Wildseed Inc., says wildflowers usually are the best alternative. "Wildflowers offer more color and use less water for the price," he says.

Death law change approved

AUSTIN (AP) — The House on Wednesday approved a change in the death penalty law and advanced a bill that would make it illegal to threaten to tamper with products.

With no debate, the House gave final approval to a bill by Rep. Larry Evans, D-Houston, that would make it more difficult for jurors to return death penalties against accomplices in capital murder cases.

The bill would require jurors to decide whether an accomplice was "a cause" of the death. Under current law, an accomplice, even if not the triggerman, can be sentenced to death.

Evans' bill won final House approval in a non-record vote, sending it to the Senate.

Winning tentative approval on a non-record vote, and with no debate, was a bill by Rep. John Smithce, R-Amarillo, that would allow 10 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine for threatening to tamper with a consumer product.

According to a House analysis, a national food retailers group reported 1,892 cases of tampering threats in 1986, compared with only 200 cases of actual tampering. Threats of tampering have caused problems in Texas, including a Waco incident in which \$400,000 had to be spent to destroy products a caller said had been tainted.

Oilman: Need for Texas oil will keep producers going

MIDLAND (AP) — The world's unquenchable thirst for energy will insure the Permian Basin's destiny for years to come, says Bernold "Bruno" Hanson, president of American Association of Petroleum Geologists and a Midland oilman.

Elected president of the world's largest geological association in June 1986, at the bottom of the worst downturn in petroleum history, Hanson has had to steer the 42,000-member organization through its toughest waters ever, but he sees smoother sailing ahead.

While four of every 10 petroleum geologists in the nation are still out of work, Hanson is not ready to bury petroleum geology with the same dinosaurs that made the science possible.

"It's all a matter of price. When the price for oil returns, so will the demand for petroleum geologists," Hanson says.

Since becoming president of the association, he has traveled 100,000 miles making speeches to geologists, professional and political groups around the world — even testifying before Congress — to get that message across.

But Hanson says some of the most talented and experienced oil finders in the nation have been put out of business by company layoffs and early retirement and will not be available when their services are needed most.

"By 1990," he says, "OPEC will be selling oil by the tanker to the highest bidder, and the crisis will be on again."

Hanson says there is an excess of 5 million to 8 million barrels per day of worldwide production that is being narrowed rapidly. He adds that there is virtually no exploration going on anywhere in the world to find new reserves, and that consuming nations are becoming more dependent on OPEC reserves.

Most industry experts conclude that the United States will be 50 percent dependent on foreign crude by

"The U.S. energy consumer has two choices: he can pay a little more now, or he can wait until the crisis and pay triple."

— Bernold "Bruno" Hanson, Midland oilman.

the early 1990s, but Hanson says it could come as early as 1988.

Whenever it does come, the North Dakota-born oilman says OPEC will not hesitate to put the squeeze on consuming nations, and force them to once again look for new reserves. "That will prompt a demand for geologists, landmen, roughnecks and will open up thousands of jobs in the oil industry."

He says intense dependency and demand for petroleum will make sure of that, noting that a 100-million-barrel field is the equivalent of only two days' world consumption.

He said the average well in the U.S. has a reserve capacity of only 45,000 barrels, and that it takes 50 such wells to equal one day's consumption in the U.S.

"With that kind of world appetite for petroleum, it's going to take a lot of new wells to add reserves," Hanson said.

"On an average it takes the drilling of 10,000 wells to find a single 50 million barrel field, and 700 wells to find a field of less than 10 million reserves," he said.

He also said it would take almost a decade to get to a point where a sufficient volume of wells could be drilled to replace reserves in the U.S.

He says that restoring America to a point of adding reserves would not place an undue burden on the U.S. energy consumer.

"Bringing oil prices back to a \$20 price would only add three cents per gallon at the gas pump. After that it would cost the consumer nothing, because increased tax revenues from a revitalized oil industry would reduce his tax burden in other areas. The U.S. energy consumer has two choices: he can pay a little more now, or he can wait until the crisis and pay triple."

Hanson, a former geologist for the old Humble Oil Co. (now Exxon), first came to Midland in 1951 and has seen the largest producing province in the U.S. mature from primary to tertiary production.

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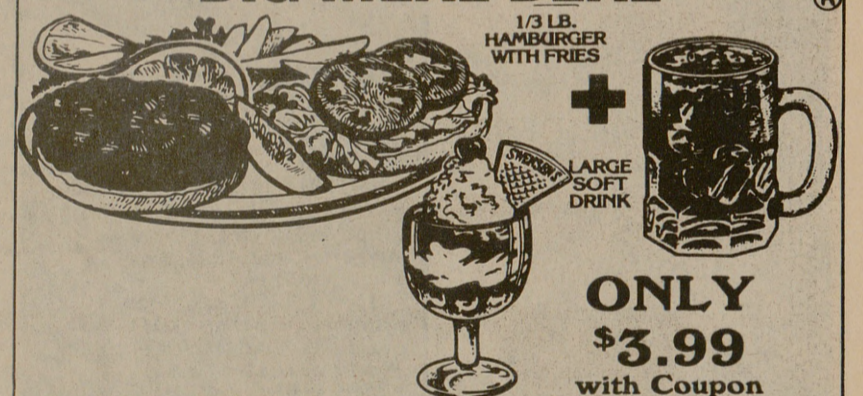
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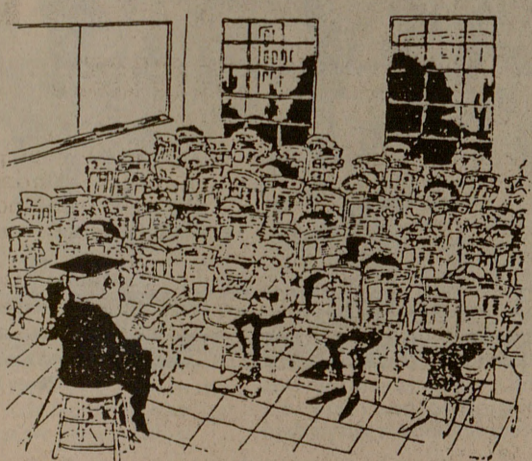
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