

Warped



City workers get pink slips in Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — A blizzard of pink slips brought this energy-poor city's two-day series of layoffs to 192, officials said.

On Tuesday, 181 city workers were given papers informing them their last day of work would be July 31, including 119 employees and one assistant director in the Public Works Department.

Sixty-one workers in the Department of Traffic and Transportation were also informed of layoffs on Tuesday, while on Monday, 11 employees in other departments were handed termination notices.

Other layoffs either already made or scheduled in the city's Legal General Services and Finance and Administration departments bring the total number of layoffs so far for fiscal 1988 to 294.

The layoffs stem from the city's continuing budget crisis, and Mayor Kathy Whitmire's proposed 1988 budget calls for 303 layoffs to help cover a revenue shortfall of at least \$48 million in her \$1.29 billion spending plan.

City Council pored over her budget Wednesday, along with proposed revenue measures such as garbage and zoo entry fees. Last year, the city laid off more than 500 workers. Richard Shaw, spokesman for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, said he expected many of those served termination notices this week to appeal.

SMU officials to cooperate in investigation of scandal

AUSTIN (AP) — Southern Methodist University officials told Attorney General Jim Mattox on Wednesday they would cooperate in his investigation of the school's pay-for-play scandal.

But after a 90-minute private meeting with Mattox, SMU's top lawyer said the attorney general probably wouldn't uncover anything more than is already known about the scandal that cost SMU its football program for two years.

SMU general counsel Leon Bennett and William Stallcup, the school's interim president, met with Mattox in his office.

"I think it's been looked at so much and so deeply I'd be surprised if there is anything new," Bennett said.

Mattox replied, "There are still some outstanding questions that are obviously there that relate to these continuing payments to the athletic director and football coaches. There's an assortment of other bits of information that we've received... that we, of course, are interested in reviewing also."

His investigation includes a look at whether any money from SMU, which is a charitable trust organization, was spent inappropriately.

The attorney general is empowered to review spending by charitable organizations, and Mattox has expressed concern about continuing payments to former SMU Athletic Director Bob Hitch, ex-football Coach Bobby Collins and former Collins assistant Henry Lee Parker.

Before the meeting, Stallcup told reporters, "We'll cooperate in any way we can."

But on Tuesday, a spokesman for the United Methodist Church bishops committee that conducted its own investigation, said the group is reluctant to let Mattox see its records.

"The general feeling of the committee was that this type of information should not be made available to the public," said the Rev. Spurgeon Dunnam, editor of the *United Methodist Reporter*.

'Wally's Cafe' comes to A&M campus

Warm comedy shows development of restaurant, owners

By Karl Pallmeyer

The MSC Dinner Theater's production of "Wally's Cafe" began its four-day run to about 70 people in Room 201 of the Memorial Student Center Wednesday night. It was a relaxing evening with a snack provided along with a good comedy.

After a plate of cheeses, fruits, crackers, bread and dessert, the play began. The first act of "Wally's Cafe" takes place in 1941 and we meet Wally and Louise. They are just about to open a hamburger-shaped restaurant in the desert, 60 miles from Las Vegas. Although Wally is optimistic about their new business venture, Louise isn't. Their cafe is a long way away from the highway and most customers would prefer to stop at Bernie's place, the restaurant just off the road.

They get their first "customer" on the evening before they open the cafe. Janet is a young lady from Quincy, Illinois, on her way to becoming a Hollywood star. Her ex-boyfriend lost all his money — and his car — in Las Vegas and now she has nothing but her talent and \$11 to get her to Hollywood. It's obvious that her \$11 will get her further than her talent. Wally and Louise give her food and a place to stay for the night.

Act II takes place in 1958 and business hasn't been good, but Bernie's place is doing better than before. Janet, whose career as a Hollywood star was cut short by a Hollywood scandal, is now a waitress at Wally's. A lot of unpleasant secrets are disclosed one night and Janet leaves. Louise wants to leave but decides to stay when they learn a new

highway is about to built right across from their front door.

The third and final act takes place in 1981. The highway was built across Bernie's front door and Wally and Louise are about to leave their restaurant for a rest home. But a surprise visit from Janet changes their plans — and their lives.

"Wally's Cafe" is a nice little play with several warm and humorous moments. Jay Laengrich, a sophomore pre-med major from Midland, was good in his role as Wally, especially as senility hit in the third act. Amy Kay Colby, a junior theater arts major from Round Rock, did well in showing how Janet changed from an enthusiastic, star-struck kid to a cynical, middle-aged lady and then to a worldly, fun-loving, mature woman. At first Mary Ellen Brennan, a sophomore theater arts major from Austin, seemed a little uncomfortable

but warmed up by the middle of the first act. She seemed to grow well with Wally as their characters grew older.

"Wally's Cafe" will continue every night through Saturday with a meal being served at 6:30 and the play beginning at 8. Tonight's menu is a cheese and fruit plate, while barbecue will be offered Friday night. For Saturday evening's performance, a Hawaiian luau is scheduled.

Prices for tonight's performance and meal are \$10 for students and \$12 for non-students. Prices for Friday and Saturday's performances and meals are \$13 for students and \$15 for non-students. Tickets are available at the Rudder Box Office. Call MSC Dinner Theater at 845-1515 or Rudder Box Office at 845-1234 for more details.

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