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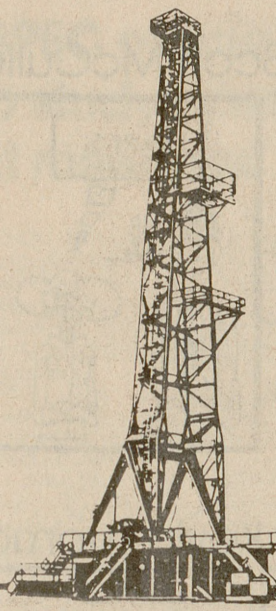
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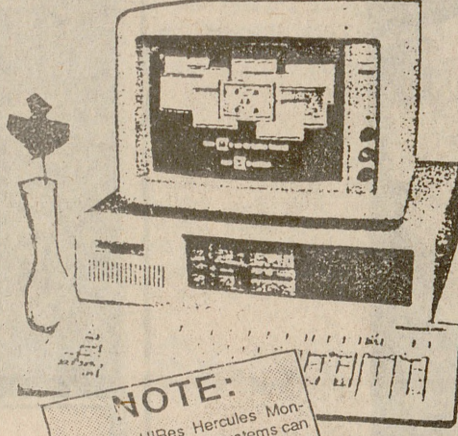
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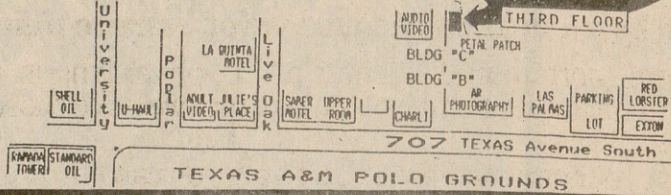
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Experts: People shoot first, call for help later

DALLAS (AP) — A growing number of Dallas residents are exercising an option to shoot first, then call police when someone breaks into their home or property, authorities say.

While authorities say they do not keep separate statistics on citizens shooting suspects, police acknowledge there has been a recent increase in people protecting their homes and property.

Last year, Dallas had the highest crime rate in the nation among cities with populations of 500,000 or more, according to FBI statistics. Experts say that as crime increases, so do the number of people who use deadly force to fight back.

Peter Lesser is a criminal lawyer and a board member of the Dallas American Civil Liberties Union.

"We have a frontier state of mind, and it automatically carries over to our laws," Lesser said.

"There's been a greater tendency on the part of the penal code when it was rewritten to make sure that people have the right to protect themselves and their property," Lesser told the *Dallas Morning News*.

Although grand juries often vindicate their actions, few people know

the Texas Penal Code well enough to know what circumstances constitute a permissible use of deadly force, prosecutors say.

"We have a frontier state of mind, and it automatically carries over to our laws."

— Peter Lesser, criminal lawyer

Texas laws permit citizens to use deadly force not only in self-defense but in a variety of other situations, including stopping someone who is about to commit burglary, robbery, nighttime theft or criminal mischief. State laws also permit citizens to use deadly force to stop someone from escaping with their property.

In recent months, grand juries in Dallas counties have declined to indict the following people:

• A 29-year-old woman heard her former boyfriend pounding on

her apartment door, demanding to be let inside. A court had issued a protective order barring him from contacting her. After words were exchanged, she fired one gunshot through the door to scare him. He didn't. He kicked in a window and started to climb through and she fired another shot, mortally wounding him in the chest.

• A 47-year-old Dallas County grand jury bailiff shot and killed a 20-year-old man who tried to flee after an apparent burglary attempt at his home. Hearing a noise in the back yard about 6 a.m., the bailiff grabbed a gun and confronted the man. When the man attempted to run away, the bailiff fired two shots, hitting him in the back and chest.

In another recent case, a woman in Arlington shot and killed a 25-year-old University of Texas at Arlington student who lived next door. She said she fired at someone she saw through her window screen in the belief he might have been trying to break in. Police say that case probably will be turned over to a grand jury within a month.

El Paso police chief plans to revise use of officer's fees

EL PASO (AP) — El Paso's police chief, John Scagno, said he plans to revise a decades-old practice of police officers receiving fees for answering questions about traffic accidents.

The city's top elected officials previously were unaware that officers have been charging fees for providing testimony and information about traffic accidents.

The fees, now \$35 and up, are routinely paid by insurance adjusters, private investigators and lawyers. Written police and sheriff's department policies allow the practice, but it has not been examined or actively regulated for years, the *El Paso Times* reported.

But Scagno was quick to recognize potential problems with the practice.

"We're going to change it," Scagno said. "It's one of those things that lies on the books dormant until someone complains."

Mayor Jonathan Rogers has been in office more than six years but didn't know police were authorized to accept such fees.

"It just doesn't ring right, and as such it will probably be stopped," Rogers said.

El Paso County Judge Luther Jones and Sheriff Leo

Samaniego said they would re-examine the county policy. Jones, like Rogers, said he had never heard of the policy.

Louie Akin, a former El Paso police officer who now is a private investigator and also chief investigator for the Texas attorney general's consumer protection division, believes the policy needs work.

Akin said he routinely pays \$35 and has paid as much as \$50 for interviews with police officers, including some who were on duty.

"I don't mind paying them for their time," Akin said. "I just want to be sure I'm doing it in an ethical manner."

Private investigators often are hired by lawyers who have a client considering a lawsuit over personal injuries or property damage caused by a traffic accident. Insurance adjusters usually are the first to interview the officers who filed initial accident reports, to confirm or expand on information in those reports.

"In 10 years of investigation in San Francisco, I never once paid an officer for a statement," Akin said. "In seven years in El Paso, I have never once taken a statement from an officer whom I did not have to pay."

Increase in demand helps timber industry

(AP) — Texas' timber industry, which fell on hard times during the early 1980s, is coming out of the woods as worldwide demand has increased and housing starts nationally have risen.

Jay O'Laughlin is an associate professor in Texas A&M University's Forest Science Department.

"The industry has certainly weathered the storm of the early 1980s and the companies that survived are in good shape for the future," O'Laughlin said.

While worldwide demand for timber increases, resources around the globe are declining and more timberlands are being converted to food production or eaten away by urban sprawl.

In addition, settlement of a trade dispute with Canada last year is expected to slow the flow of cheap Canadian lumber across U.S. borders, increasing the market share for U.S. production. Demand for pulpwood also has increased.

For paper mills, 1987 is expected to be a record production year as the

demand increases for an array of products, including baby diapers, napkins and computer paper.

The events spell good news for Texas' \$6 billion-a-year timber business.

J.D. Perryman is managing director of Forestry Investment Managers in Houston and president of its parent company, Texas Gulf Timber.

"We are the Arabs of the timber business," Perryman said. "We have the timber resource. Most of the rest of the world does not."

The state has 12 million acres of forest starting in east Harris County, running north to the Red River and encompassing all of East Texas, Perryman said.

Meanwhile, he said, a U.S. State Department report says 25 percent of the world's timberlands will be harvested and not replanted over the next quarter-century.

Prices for standing timber have more than doubled from May 1986, Perryman said.

Citizens learn to accept nuclear dump

FORT HANCOCK (AP) — The proposal for a low-level radioactive-waste dump caused a furor here when it was first introduced, but now the plan draws mostly ambivalent reactions.

More than a year ago, when geologists were drilling test holes to see if the desert 11 miles northeast of town was suitable for the site, townspeople talked about little else.

But now, concern seems to be fading in the community of 500.

Dan Barton, who owns a grocery store near the exit on Interstate 10, said he thinks there is nothing residents can do about it.

Yet Barton says residents remain opposed to the dump. "Everybody's pretty much accepted that," he told the *El Paso Times*. "It's very unpopular to be for it. If that thing would provide 20 jobs, I'd be for it. I think we'd be lucky to get one job out of it."

Royal couple from Spain visits San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sophia of Spain were greeted Texas-style Sunday with cowboy hats, country music and a visit to the Alamo on the first stop of a week-long visit to the Southwest.

King Carlos noted the Spanish legacy at his first stop, a visit to the Institute of Texan Cultures, where the king and queen were greeted by

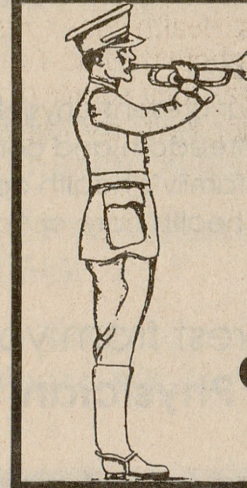
country-and-western music and by about 800 people waving small yellow and red Spanish flags.

"My first words are to express the profound satisfaction that the queen and I experienced at the beginning of our trip to Texas, New Mexico and California, three states . . . in which there exists many important Hispanic minorities that strive for their identity, their future and that

of this great nation," the king said at the institute.

"Spain is also very happy to have contributed in the passage to forge that identity as you today contribute to make this state one of the most prosperous, beautiful . . . in the United States," he said.

Mayor Henry Cisneros and his wife, Alice, greeted the royal couple and accompanied them on the tour of San Antonio.



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