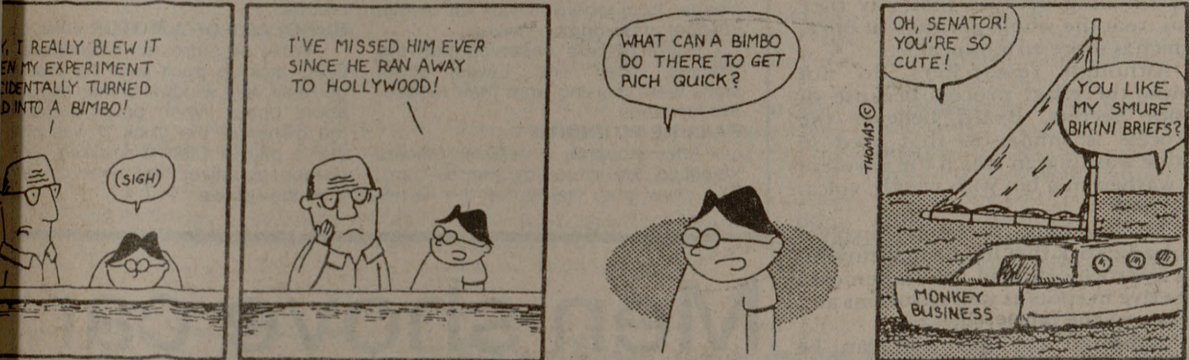


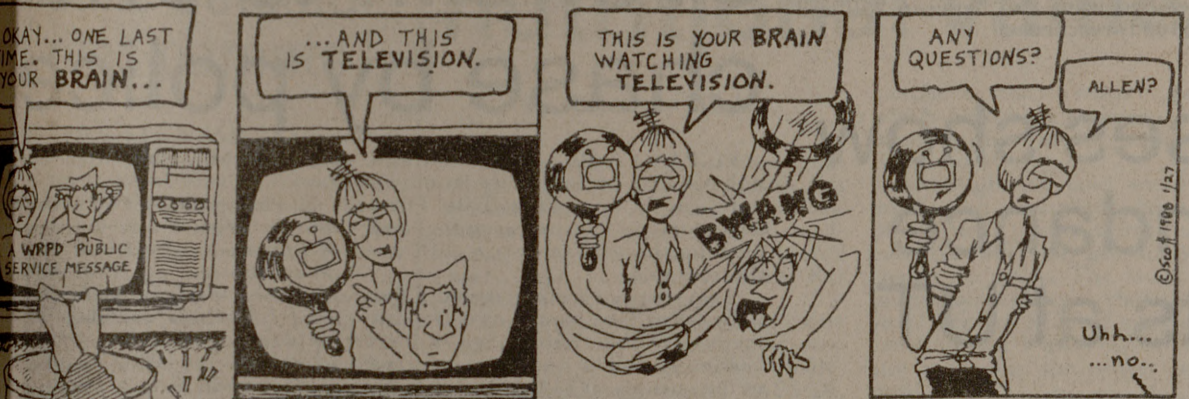
by Jon Caldara



by Kevin Thomas



by Scott McCullar



## Random gunfire results in death of motorcyclist

DENTON (AP) — A motorcyclist in the head by a random shot apparently fired by a disgruntled oil-field worker is the fourth member of a family to die on Denton roads, authorities said.

Jack Eric Blanchard, 21, of Denton, died Monday afternoon at Methodist Hospital in Dallas after a bullet fired from a .25-caliber pistol pierced his helmet as he rode along Interstate 35, authorities said.

Jeffery Allen Hill, 26, of Yukon, Okla., was charged with attempted murder Monday, authorities said. A \$100,000 bond was set, and Hill is being held in the Denton county jail Tuesday.

Denton Police Sgt. Loyd Burns said Tuesday that officials were upgrading the charge to murder.

Blanchard's father, Robert Blanchard, and two half-sisters were killed in 1981 when a car driven by a drunken driver struck them while they rode bicycles near their home, officials said.

Blanchard, the divorced father of a 2-year-old son, and a friend, Jim Anderson, were riding on Blanchard's motorcycle early Monday and had slowed down to pull off the freeway when a shot was fired from a van, police said.

Anderson, who noticed blood coming from Blanchard's helmet, ran to a nearby restaurant to call for help, police Capt. Bill Cummings said.

"The motorcycle had slowed down enough that he (Anderson)

could just step off," Cummings said. "Supposedly he was shooting his gun on the way up on Interstate 45."

Hill told police he had been working for his father's company in the oil fields in Buffalo, about 150 miles south of Dallas. He said he got into a fight with a co-worker, and his father ordered him to go home to Oklahoma.

"He had left Buffalo, Tx., mad," Cummings said. "Supposedly he was shooting his gun on the way up on Interstate 45."

"He just said he'd been shooting. He didn't say if he had been shooting at anybody. He says he doesn't even remember shooting inside the city limits of Denton."

## Workers continue search for bodies in Mexican mine

LAS ESPERANZAS, Mexico (AP) — Workers continue to search for bodies from a mine explosion that killed at least 33 coal miners outside this northern town in Mexico's coal-rich Carbon Region.

The owner of the funeral home where the dead from Monday's disaster were being taken said 27 corpses were there. He said authorities told him to expect at least 10 more.

Seventeen miners remained hospitalized Tuesday in Palau and Avea Rosita, Dr. Carlos Aguirre Espinazo, deputy director of the Social Security Hospital in Palau said.

Gerardo Acosta Garcia, an investigator with the federal Public Min-

istry, said 138 men were inside the government-owned Sidermex Steel Co. mine when an electric transformer at one of the mine's substations short-circuited and caused the explosion and fire. Most of the men got out on their own after the blast.

Coal dust and accumulated gas probably fueled the blaze.

"I just thank God I made it out," Ismael Soto said in an interview from his hospital bed. Soto, who has worked at the mine for eight years, said he was on the mine's ninth level Monday when the explosion occurred on the 10th level, about 490 feet below the surface.

Friends and relatives of the buried miners huddled around camp-

fires overnight outside the mine's entrances, about 80 yards from the mine shaft where workers brought victims to the surface.

As bodies slowly were recovered, guards at the gates called for family members to come inside and identify them.

Jorge Antonio Bonita said he was asked to identify a body believed to be that of his brother.

"We couldn't tell who it was," Bonita said. "He didn't have a crown (on his tooth), so maybe it wasn't him."

Felipe Perez Ortiz, the miner heading the rescue team at the mine, said, "We don't believe there's a possibility that anyone remains alive."

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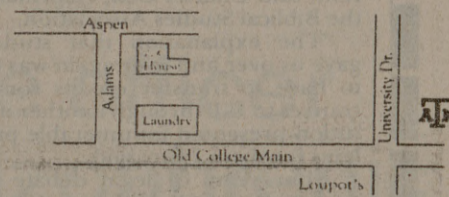
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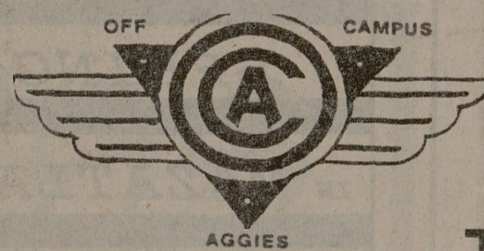
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