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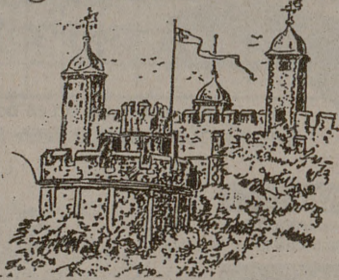
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**Officials right
flipped truck
after toxic spill**

STREETMAN (AP) — Officials ended a potentially dangerous situation Thursday when they righted an overturned tanker-truck and pumped an explosive, toxic chemical that had spilled across Interstate 45 into a second vehicle.

All four lanes of the interstate were shut down for about eight hours as authorities cleaned up the toxic spill, said Sharon MacDowell, a communications clerk at the Department of Public Safety in Waco.

The driver of the truck and the passenger, both identified as employees of Phillips 66 Co., were treated at Fairfield Memorial Hospital and released, authorities said.

The company identified them as Jim Davidson and Lonnie Sebald, but did not have their ages or hometowns.

Authorities identified the chemical as cyclohexane, an industrial solvent used in manufacturing tires, nylon and paint.

"A spark could very easily ignite this stuff," MacDowell said.

Phillips Petroleum Co. officials and an expert from Western Emergency Services joined authorities at the site in Freestone County, about 83 miles south of Dallas, she said.

Dan Harrison, a spokesman for Phillips Petroleum, said, "It's volatile, but not as volatile as gasoline. It can cause skin irritation and is hazardous if inhaled in high concentrations."

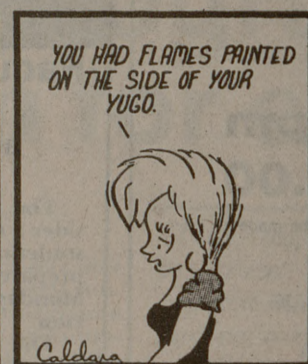
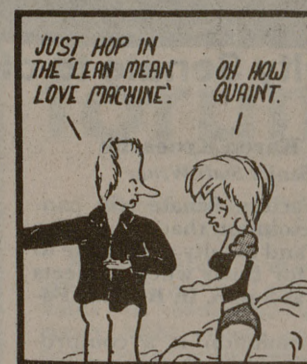
He said the tanker carried 7,200 gallons and less than 10 gallons leaked.

MacDowell said the slow leak continued through midday Thursday.

"At one point they said that the spill was contained, but then they called back and said it was still leaking," she said.

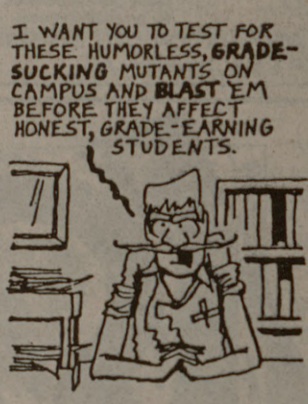
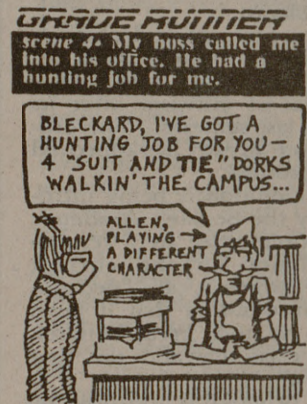
She said few details were available on the cause of the accident.

B Street



by Jon Caldara

Warped



by Scott McCulla

Waldo



by Kevin Thomas

Governor, National Weather Service promote awareness week in Texas

By Ronnie Calhoun
Reporter

Because the spring season brings severe weather such as hail, lightning, flooding, tornadoes and thunderstorms, this week has been proclaimed as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Texas by Gov. Bill Clements.

Lauren Chernow, public information specialist for the state division of emergency management in Austin, said the designated week — which ends today — is a coordinated effort with the National Weather Service to promote public awareness of severe weather.

The annual Texas event falls on the last week in February or the first week in March.

"We are trying to emphasize what to do when a tornado is spotted and how to protect your property," Chernow said. "This is also an excellent opportunity for children and for new people moving into the state to know what to do when severe weather is near."

The National Weather Service is promoting the week with a different topic each day. The topics will be tornadoes, flash floods, severe thunderstorms and lightning. Today is National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio Day.

Chernow said the weather service will hand out information to give hints and tips during the week.

The most frequent periods of the year for tornadoes to occur is during spring when the weather is warming up. The other period is during late fall and early winter when the temperature is changing.

Charlie Brenton, practical meteorologist at A&M, said tornadoes have occurred in all 50 states in all months of the year.

"A tornado can happen anywhere at any time," he said.

Jake Cangelose, Brazos County Civil Defense Coordinator, said everyone should be alert during severe weather months.

"When you see severe weather, precautions should be taken," Cangelose said. "Severe weather can occur without warning. Just because no one has said anything about severe weather does not mean it will not happen."

The difference between a watch and a warning is important in the understanding of severe weather. A watch is issued by the National Weather Service to indicate when and where severe thunderstorms or tornadoes are most likely to occur. A severe thunderstorm watch implies that the storms may develop to significant strength to produce large

hail and/or damaging winds. A tornado watch means both tornadoes and severe thunderstorms are likely. During a watch, everyone in or near the watch area should be alert for signs of threatening weather and should make preliminary plans for action.

Warnings are issued by the National Weather Service when severe thunderstorms or tornadoes are indicated by radar or reported by reliable sources. A warning will describe the area at risk for a tornado or severe thunderstorm.

"When a warning is issued listen for location and direction of the storm path and take cover immediately," Cangelose said. "People not in immediate danger should stay alert and watch weather developments."

The Brazos County Civil Defense in association with the National Weather Service will keep the people of the county including Texas A&M informed on severe weather conditions.

"During severe weather you should stay tuned to your local radio, television or NOAA weather radio station for weather bulletins," he said.

Safety rules are important to remember during severe weather, Cangelose said.

"Knowing what or what not to do can save your life during thunderstorms, flash floods and tornadoes," Cangelose said.

He outlined safety rules for a thunderstorm:

- When a thunderstorm threatens, get inside a house or a large building.
 - Inside a home, avoid using the telephone except for emergencies.
 - If outside with no time to reach a safe building or automobile, get out of and away from open water.
 - Get away from tractors and other metal farm equipment.
 - Stay away from wire fences, clotheslines, metal pipes and rails which may carry lightning.
 - In the event of a flash flood, Cangelose said, a person should do the following:
 - Keep alert for signs of heavy rains.
 - Don't attempt to cross flowing water which looks like it may be more than knee-deep.
 - Don't drive through flooded areas.
 - If a vehicle stalls, abandon it and seek higher ground immediately.
- Cangelose said children need to be kept away from moving water because they could be swept away.

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