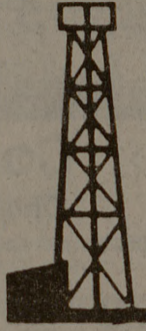


# State and Local

## A&M experts help with oil recovery

By Mike W. Thomas  
Reporter



The Geoscience Institute for Oil and Gas Recovery Research, a consortium of 15 universities from around the country including Texas A&M and the University of Texas, has estimated that 66 percent of known U.S. oil will be abandoned if more effort is not put into oil and gas recovery research.

There are 230 billion barrels of oil or 46 percent of the known reserves that are considered immobile and trapped and could not be recovered in the foreseeable future. Another 20 percent or 96 billion barrels of oil are considered mobile unswept oil and could be recovered with an increase in research efforts.

The Texas Bureau of Economic Geology has estimated that there are 35 billion barrels of mobile unswept oil in Texas. Friedman has calculated that if 1 percent of this oil is recovered it would result in a \$6.3 billion boost to the Texas economy and \$290 million in direct severance taxes.

To advance research efforts the DOE formed the consortium to research new methods of oil recovery

and make the information available to the general public.

The consortium will be presenting its first report reflecting the efforts of over 500 experts in the oil industry to the DOE in September. Friedman said the report will advise the DOE to set up numerous requests for proposals or RFPs that will be awarded to qualified universities.

Each RFP will target a specific area of research and funding will be on a dollar by dollar matching basis. The oil industry will be encouraged to support the RFPs and help the universities pay the matching funds.

Friedman is confident that Texas A&M will receive its share of RFPs.

"The research will take time to bear fruit," said Friedman, "but with a little investment into oil recovery research we could reap big dividends in the near future."

Friedman said it is conceivable that the U.S. could be completely energy self-sufficient. The U.S. imports 40 percent of its oil and gas supply.

Oil experts from Texas A&M and other universities are helping independent oil producers tap the \$1.7 trillion worth of oil that they have not been able to recover.

Dr. Mel Friedman, dean of geosciences, has said that two-thirds of the known oil reserves are left in the ground because the independent oil producers who recover the major portion of the oil do not have the technology or the research capabilities they need.

Most of the research on new methods of oil recovery is being done by the big oil companies like Exxon and Mobil that have the resources to fund the research, he said.

The information is not being disseminated to the smaller companies that make up the bulk of domestic oil production, he said.

Friedman said the Department of Energy is spending only 2 percent of its budget on oil and gas recovery research, with most of the rest of the

money being spent in support of the coal and lignite industry.

The DOE assumes that oil producers will do their own research and do not want the government to get involved, but most oil producers cannot afford to do this type of research and the result is that a large proportion of known oil reserves is being left in the ground, he said.

### Teacher drops federal suit against school

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A former high school teacher has dropped a federal lawsuit against a school district, but plans to continue her state court battle after being accused of having sex with a student who later committed suicide, officials said.

Lou Ann Hogan, 24, who has moved to New York state, was suspended, then fired by the Northside Independent School District in March after four young people said they saw her having sex with another youth in December.

Hogan dropped the federal lawsuit because of lack of funds, court documents state.

### Gang rape victim tells paper how she copes with trauma

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — The victim of an alleged gang rape said she slowly is beginning to cope with the trauma of the night she was kidnapped and sexually assaulted, a newspaper reported in a copyright story.

The 19-year-old woman said in an interview with the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* that an outpouring of support from the area has helped her.

"I'd like to tell them, 'Thank you,'" she said of those who have donated money and letters of support, the newspaper reported Tuesday.

The March 26 gang rape took place near the Duval County town of San Diego, the woman told authorities.

Since then, however, she, her husband and their two children have moved to a "safe place" somewhere near Corpus Christi, said Dot Barnett, executive director of Crisis Services, a non-profit organization that is provid-

ing counseling and teaching the woman how to read, write, make grocery lists and drive.

"It's better than San Diego," the woman told the newspaper, but added that she does not like to go alone to the coin-operated laundry.

"There're men washing in the washateria. I start shaking," she said. "Forgetting about it. That's the toughest," she said, referring to the ordeal. "But I ignore it. I just play with the kids and stuff."

Born the ninth of 12 children of an alcoholic father and overworked mother, she said she learned to survive by seeking obscurity, or according to her rule: Be quiet and bad things will go away.

She broke that rule on March 27, when, at her husband's urging, she told authorities that she had been sexually assaulted by as many as 15 men, most of whom were attending a cockfight at an area north of San Diego, a town of about 5,000.

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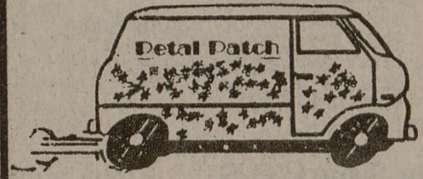


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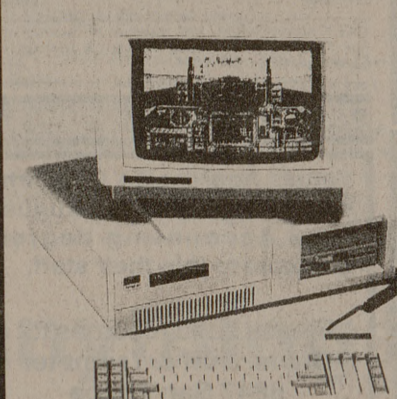
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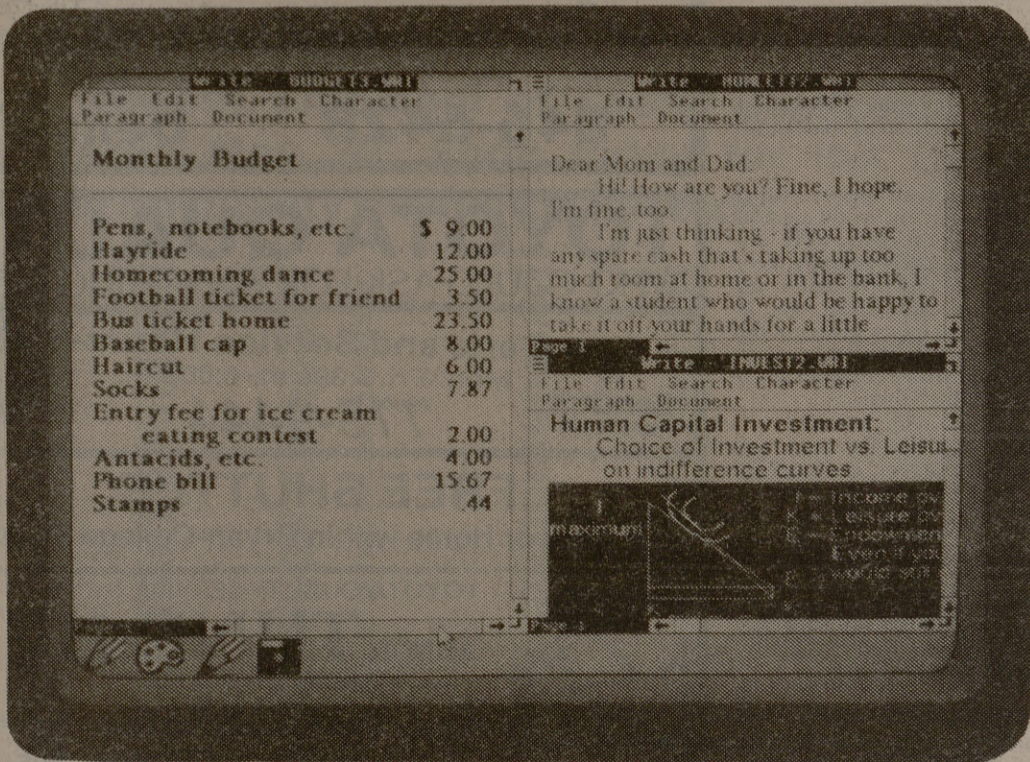
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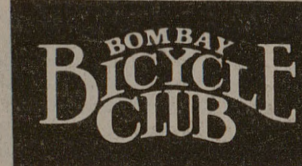
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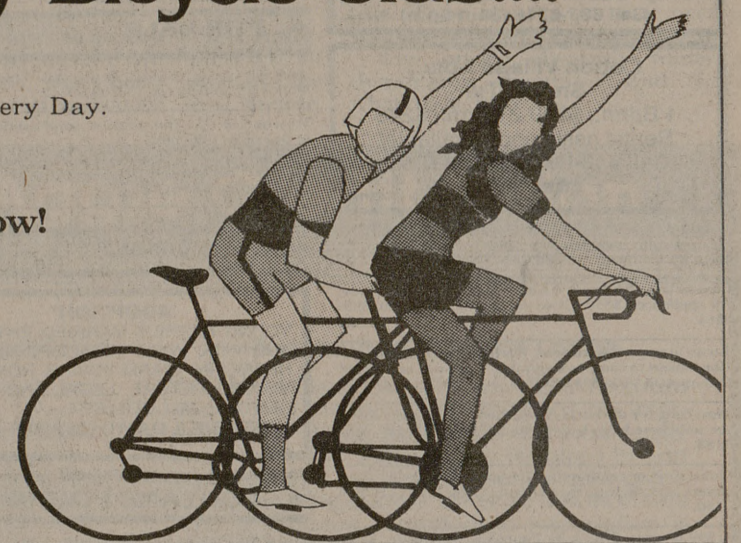
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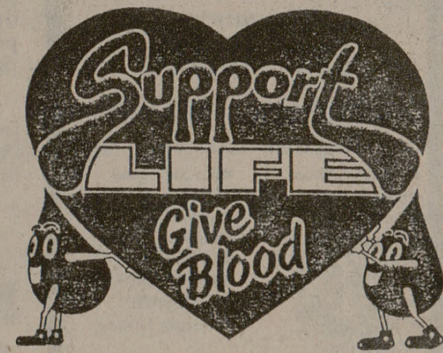


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