

## State and Local

### Bank's president resigns because of policy changes

DALLAS (AP) — For 34 years, Polly Lewis built a reputation as a hometown banker, servicing loans with personal attention and working up to bank president.

Now, her former customers say she's been forced out by the Seagoville State Bank's board of directors. Depositors and friends put up money for a newspaper advertisement to protest her termination.

Lewis' departure has pitted loyal bank depositors against directors of the institution where she was hired in 1954. Depositors on Tuesday said the 61-year-old woman helped them get their start in business.

A bank official, however, said that Lewis left after she refused to accept reassignment in a management shakeup in the bank once owned by the late M.D. Reeves.

"Reeves, who had been a banker for years and years and years, bred into Polly that the customers — the

people — built the bank," Ray Compton, a Dallas businessman, said.

"Pappy taught her to work with depositors when they having problems, and that is country banking at its best. That was the way it was. This modern banking, where they just foreclose on folks — she could not deal with that," Compton said.

Lewis, who had been Seagoville State Bank president for the last two years, declined to comment on the bank's action, referring questions to her attorney.

Compton, a long-time bank depositor, said he was angered by the bank's treatment of Lewis and had already taken some of his money out of the institution.

"In the past several years, the area has been in a recession and a lot of people I know could not pay her and the bank on time for every bit of what they owed," he said, "but could pay the interest or what they could."

### Debate continues over use of Retin-A for sun damage

Acne medicine controversial anti-aging potion

By Marc Weisinger  
Reporter

America's newest answer to the fountain of youth, Retin-A, is touted as an anti-aging potion to reduce wrinkles and the effects of sun damage to skin.

The applicable form of retinoic acid, already a patented drug, has been approved by the FDA for more than 15 years to use in counteracting the effects of acne.

The drug, which contains Tretinoin, is a mixture of retinoic acid and vitamin A and is now used for wrinkles. The drug was developed by dermatologist Dr. Albert Kligman of the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Clyde Caperton, a dermatologist in Bryan, said, "I've been using it off and on for the past few months and I can definitely see the results in my face."

It is the first skin medication to have a significant effect on the texture and the characteristics of skin damaged by overexposure to the sun, known as photoaged skin.

Caperton said he sees no drawbacks with the drug, but other doctors have different opinions.

Dr. Carl Korn of the University of Southern California Medical School said, "The only thing I see Retin-A doing is irritating the skin and increasing the susceptibility to sun damage and thus leading to skin cancer."

College Station pharmacist Sonny Ogbonnaya said some people may experience adverse skin reactions. Sensitive skin may become excessively red, hypersensitive, blistered, crusted and may develop a rash. It also may cause burning of the skin. The use of sunscreen is advised because the drug causes skin to become highly sensitive to the sun.

"All Retin-A does is peels off your skin," Jill Alderink, Ogbonnaya's assistant pharmacist, said.

Regardless of the harmful side effects some physicians claim the drug has, Retin-A is becoming hard to find.

The drug has become scarce in the drugstores

lately because of its increasing popularity, Caperton said. Although it is a prescription drug, any physician may prescribe it to their patients.

Retin-A works on the top layer of skin, the epidermis, and on sun spots. It helps thicken the skin as well as even out blotchy skin. It also aids in smoothing out fine lines and wrinkles caused by sun damage. Since it does irritate the skin, Caperton indicated that a moisturizing cream should be used.

"I have prescribed the drug to over 200 of my patients and they all seem to be pleased with the results," Caperton said. "However I see no reason for young people to use it except for acne purposes."

Beside the fact that Retin-A is being used for the treatment of acne and damaged skin, Caperton said he and other dermatologists are satisfied with the drug because of their expectations of a possible prevention of skin cancer. But he added that these results will not be known for a few more years.

### New artificial fat product could prove dangerous to consumers

By Andrea Halbert  
Reporter

Dieters may rejoice if a new artificial fat product gains Food and Drug Administration approval. But Olestra, a fat substitute developed by Procter & Gamble Co., may be too good to be true.

Olestra could cause vitamin deficiencies in consumers and waste disposal problems in neighborhoods.

Dr. Joanne Lupton, assistant professor of scientific nutrition at Texas A&M, said Olestra promises to sweep the food industry the same way that NutraSweet did if the FDA

gives its approval. She said, however, that the product's drawbacks may stand in the way of FDA approval.

"It works, tastes and smells just like fat," Lupton said. "It will be very appealing to consumers."

Olestra goes a step beyond low-cal; it's no-cal. The product is not absorbed by the body because there are no enzymes in the human body to break it down. Although this characteristic is the main advantage of Olestra, it is a potential disadvantage.

Lupton said no one has devised a

way to dispose of the waste that would be produced. Disposal is a problem because Olestra is not broken down in the body and no known bacteria breaks it down.

"This waste could build up and take over our sewage systems," Lupton said. "If the waste went untreated, you'd have to move people out of their neighborhoods after a while."

This is not the only potential problem with Olestra, Lupton said. If Olestra became the primary fat source in people's diets, she said,

negative health effects could result.

Lupton specializes in dietary fibers, foods that are not absorbed by the body. She testified at FDA hearings last year about possible side-effects of Oletra.

She said it is a possible that Olestra would cause fat-soluble vitamins to pass through the body without being absorbed. This could result in vitamin deficiencies in the body.

"We can't be sure that this would happen," she said, "but there's no conclusive data to show that it wouldn't happen."

### Teen looks for sister who may save his life

AUSTIN (AP) — Thirteen-year-old Kenny Hammonds' rare blood disease has prompted his family to try to find his sister, who they last saw nearly 11 months ago.

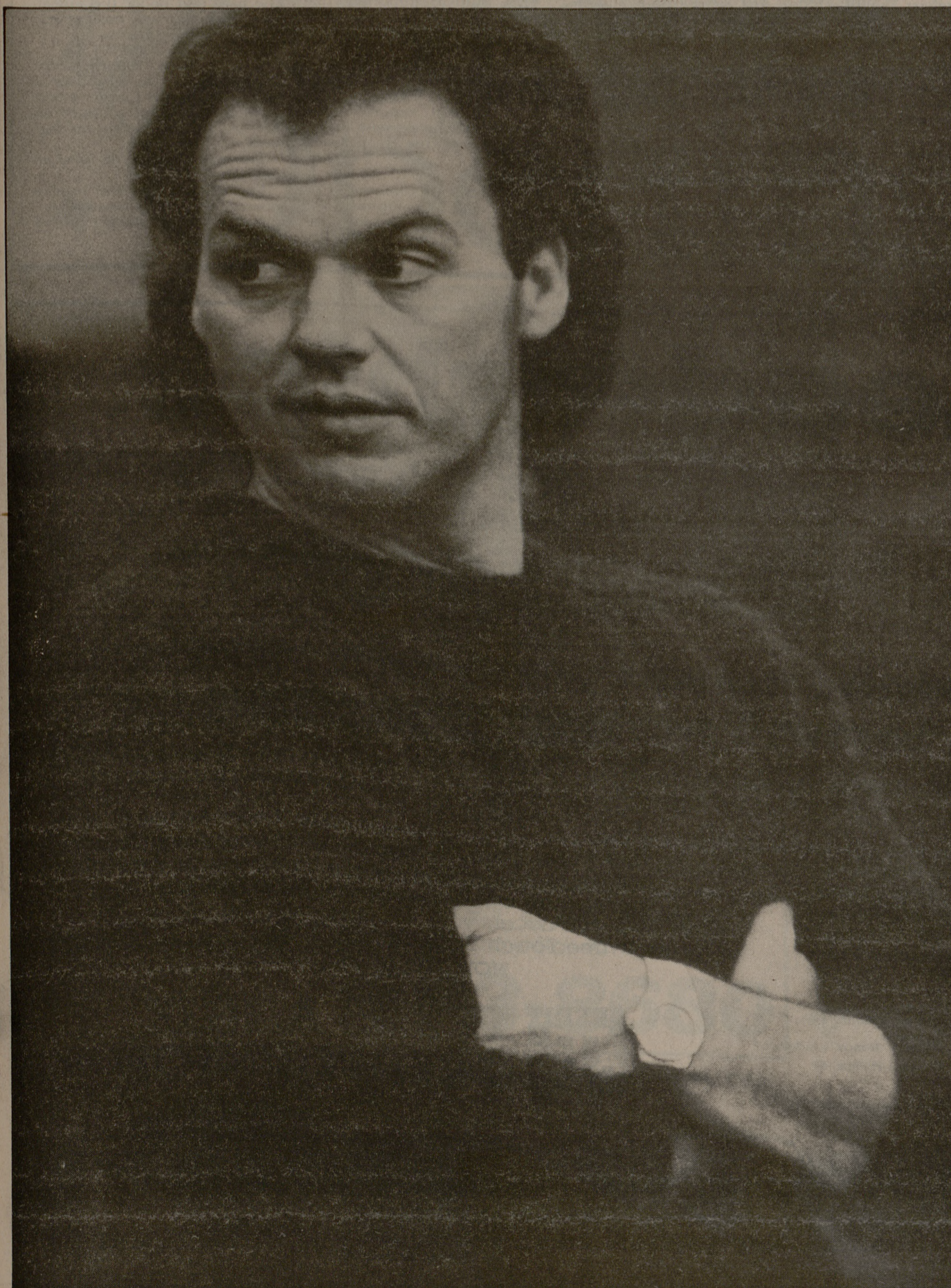
"Please come home," Kenny said from the living room of his Austin home Monday, after he and his family learned he needs a bone marrow transplant from family members — and that the best possible donor might be sister Sandra Lynn Hammonds, 20.

The family lost touch with Miss Hammonds, who went by "Sandy," and does not know where she lives. She was apparently in Fort Wayne, Ind., in recent weeks, and has lived

in Virginia Beach, Va., and Mobile, Ala., since they last saw her. She faces fraudulent check charges in Travis County, her father said.

But Earl Hammonds also said the need for a family reunion has grown more vital since they learned of the serious illness faced by their son, an eighth-grader and top soccer player.

Kenny has aplastic anemia, which his doctor described as a "one-in-a-million" illness in which the bone marrow virtually shuts down and stops producing blood cells. Kenny feels fine and appears healthy, but his low blood counts will keep getting lower unless something is done.



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