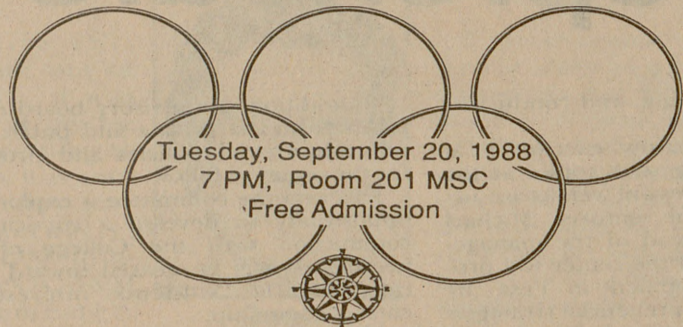


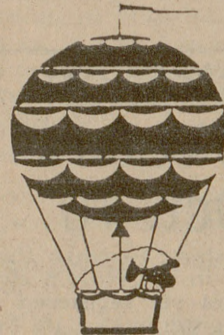
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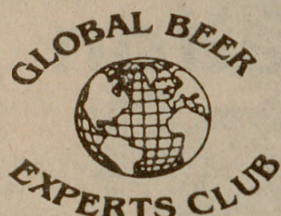
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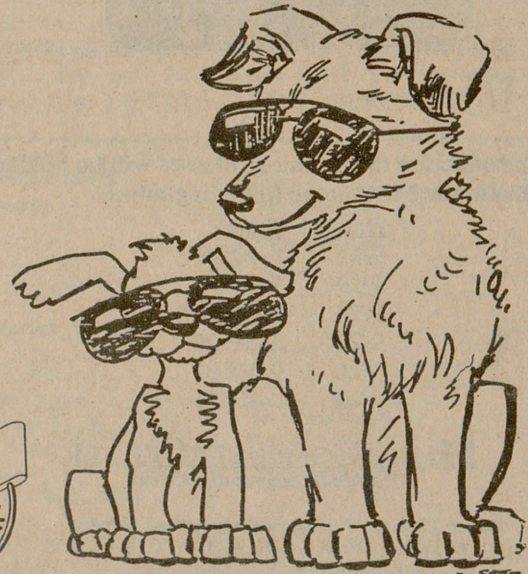
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# Convicted man wants firing squad

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A convicted killer who faced execution by injection in the Texas death chamber early Thursday said he preferred a firing squad.

"I would rather be shot," Warren Bridge said in a recent interview. "I would rather die standing up — with my shoes on — than laying down. The way they do it now is a druggy way to die. I wouldn't want to be hanged or ride old Sparky (the electric chair). I'm not very fond of electricity. Just a plain bullet is cleaner somehow."

Bridge, 28, was sentenced to die for the Feb. 10, 1980, robbery-shooting of Walter Rose, 62.

Bridge's fate rested Wednesday with the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals after a federal district judge in Galveston refused to issue a stay. The U.S. Supreme Court also could rule in his case.

Galveston attorney Anthony Griffin contends in his appeal that jurors in Bridge's capital murder trial were not allowed to consider mitigating circumstances during the punishment phase of Bridge's trial.

In his appeal, Griffin is citing arguments used in another appeal filed on behalf of Texas death row inmate Johnny Penry, whose case the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear.

"My worst fear is going over there and 25 to 30 minutes before I'm getting executed I get a stay," Bridge said. "Then I have to come back and go through all this again."

Rose was shot four times with a .38-caliber pistol as Bridge and his co-defendant, Robert Joseph Costa, robbed the convenience store of \$24. Rose died of his wounds on Feb. 24, 1980, four days after Bridge and Costa were arrested.

Costa was convicted of aggravated robbery and sentenced to 13 years in prison. He was released under mandatory supervision in October 1986 after serving five years and eight months in prison.

Bridge, a native of Fauquier County, Va., said he was in trouble since he was 8. He grew up in Albany, Ga. Before coming to Texas, he served 13 months of a 15-year prison term for burglary in Georgia.

Bridge has said he was sorry that Rose but complained his life on death row was worse than the shooting victim's fate.

"I sit here on death row for 7 1/2 years. I think about dying, and I believe Mr. Rose had a better deal," he said. "I keep wishing they would hurry up and do something. I tell you, I will drive you crazy."

During his time on death row, Bridge was implicated in the bombing of another inmate and the non-fatal stabbing of a second inmate. Incidents blamed on prison gang warfare have been linked to membership in the Texas Brotherhood, a white supremacist prison gang. "I'm not affiliated," he said. "I'm from everywhere. And now I've got a black attorney who is a touchy subject."

After his arrest for the shooting, Bridge was kept briefly from the Galveston County Jail, knocking out a hole in the jail wall. He was returned 19 hours later hitchhiking along a highway.

# Authorities: Beach residents should evacuate by sundown

GALVESTON (AP) — Authorities calling for the first evacuations Wednesday along the Texas Gulf Coast were asking beachdwellers to leave by sunset despite the still uncertain path of the most powerful hurricane on record.

Galveston County officials called for residents of the unprotected Bolivar Peninsula to leave immediately, citing poor road conditions that could hinder later escape. And students at the University of Texas Medical Branch were asked to leave the island city after their final Wednesday classes, a spokesman said.

Forecasters were still searching for clues to the course of the killer storm, which packed wind speeds of more than 175 miles per hour before slamming into the Yucatan Peninsula where thousands fled.

Across hundreds of miles of Texas coast considered vulnerable to the massive hurricane, public officials huddled Wednesday to design escape routes and prepare for catastrophic wind and rain.

Many residents, however, needed no prodding to prepare for the worst. Grocery and hardware stores were swamped with shoppers and lumber and water supplies were reported in short supply throughout the region.

Bill Tompkins, Galveston County's emergency preparedness coordinator, called for the Wednesday evacuation of the Bolivar Peninsula, which includes the city of Crystal Beach.

*"It's almost like a mass panic situation. We have so many people calling and coming in here that we had to start a waiting list, and it keeps growing before we can get more equipment in."*

— Alan Kirkhart, U-Haul Marketing

In Corpus Christi, U-Haul Marketing Co. President Alan Kirkhart described the scene at the self-service rental center where his office is located.

"It's almost like a mass panic situation," Kirkhart said. "We have so many people calling and coming in here that we had to start a waiting list, and it keeps growing before we can get more equipment in."

Because of a shortage of lumber, he said, some Corpus Christi residents have driven as far as Austin and San Antonio to rent trucks and trailers, bringing plywood back with them to board up homes prior to evacuating. Others are buying packing tape for their windows because local stores have sold out of heavier tape, he said.

Bottled water suppliers say they are bringing in additional shipments from inland storage and production facilities, but are still having problems meeting demand.

"Our business is, essentially, going off the wall right now," Richard Cashman, president of the Houston Division of Sierra Spring Water Co., Inc., said.

"We have five facilities along the gulf coast and, not knowing yet which way the hurricane is going, the demand is incredible throughout the whole region," he said. "So far, we've done a pretty good job of keeping up with demand, but transportation has been a problem because we're having to truck in from San Antonio and Dallas."

"We'd like to see everybody off Bolivar by sunset tonight," Tompkins said. "We're trying to get people out while there's still daylight."

The Texas Salvation Army's disaster forces were placed on alert Wednesday and were told to expect the worst from the storm that has already killed at least 11 people. The also were warned to ready their shelters for possibly thousands of refugees, officials said.

Lt. Col. John Mikles, Texas commander of the Salvation Army, has directed officers in the Gulf Coast cities to stock shelters and canteens in McAllen, Corpus Christi, Texas City and Port Arthur.

"We've had calls from units from as far away as Atlanta and Louisville, Ky., and they say they're ready to come at a moment's notice," he said.

# Court decides to review case of urine test

AUSTIN (AP) — The Supreme Court decided today to review a case in which a warehouse worker-trainee for Hughes Drilling Co. denied unemployment benefits after being refused a drug-screening sample for drug-screening tests.

Oral arguments before the court were set for Oct. 27.

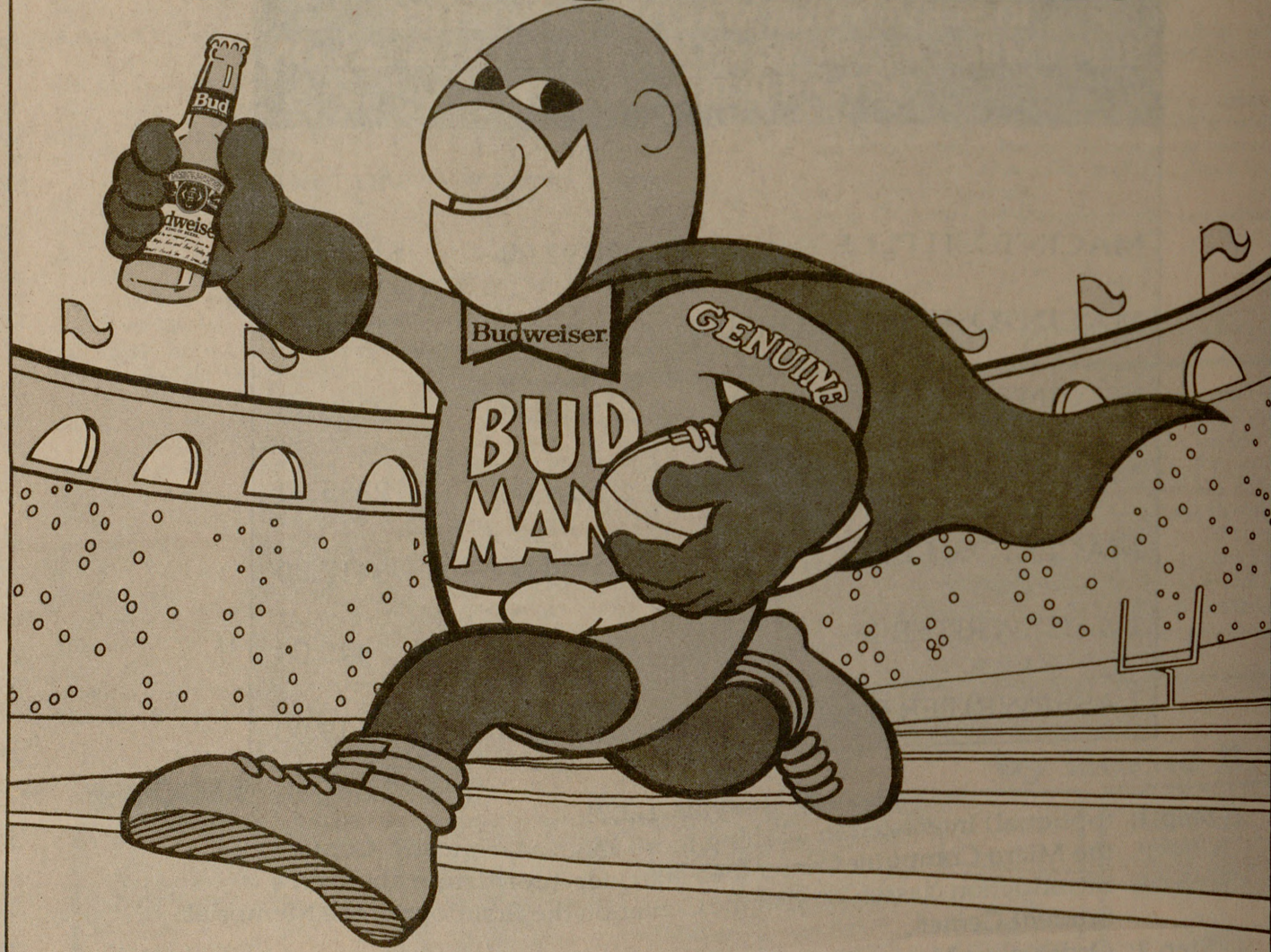
Hughes employee John Bodesa was discharged on Oct. 19, 1985. His initial claim for unemployment compensation was denied on Nov. 13. Texas Employment Commission's local office in Palestine, Bodesa appealed to the Appeal Tribunal, which affirmed the decision that Bodesa was not qualified for receiving benefits. On Feb. 12, 1986, the Appeal Tribunal affirmed the Appeal Tribunal's decision.

Hughes filed suit in an Austin County Court-at-Law, seeking summary judgment reversing the TEC and that Bodesa was disqualified from receiving benefits.

The 12th Court of Appeals affirmed the lower court's ruling.

The Supreme Court agreed to review two points of error in the court's ruling. One alleged error in the appeals court error was that Bodesa's unemployment with Hughes that he had consented to of law to Hughes' drug program.

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