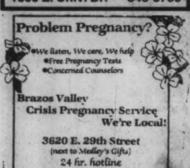
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The Battalion

Page 8

300,000 people. "We lost everything — the house, the cars," said Dan Hanlon, 49, of La Verne, who fled with his wife. "We

the east and cut power to more than

were lucky to get out. We had to drive through flames."

Generated by high pressure over Idaho and a low over Baja California, winds swept much of California and Nevada but were most destructive in the Los Angeles basin and to the east where they roar down from the desert through the mountain ranges and become known as the Santa Anas.

Fifteen homes burned up and five commercial buildings were damaged in Baldwin Park, 20 miles northeast of Los Angeles, when 75 mph gusts snapped power lines shortly after midnight and ignited a fire at Allan



Friday, December 9, 1988





Waldo

# by Kevin Thomas









# AMA OKs RCT plan; nurses raise objection

DALLAS (AP) — American Medi-cal Association officials said that despite objections by some nurses' groups, they will carry out plans to set up training for a new category of worker to perform chores such as emptying bedpans and delivering

The decision about "registered care technologists" was made Wednesday by the association's 422-member House of Delegates, the group's policy-making body.

Lucille Joel, president of the American Nurses Association, told an AMA House of Delegates committee Monday that her organization would not cooperate.

Joel and other nursing leaders have argued that RCTs, trained to provide bedside care such as emp-tying bedpans or delivering meals, would only duplicate work already performed by nurse's aides and licensed vocational nurses.

Hospitals should instead hire more workers to stock cabinets and perform other tasks unrelated to patient care that have fallen upon nurses, Joel said.

But Dr. James Sammons, executive vice president of the AMA, said Wednesday that just because the nurses association doesn't want to cooperate doesn't mean nurses don't want to.

"I'm sorry Lucille said that, because she now has driven the wedge even deeper," Sammons said at a news conference after the final session of the House of Delegates semiannual meeting in Dallas.

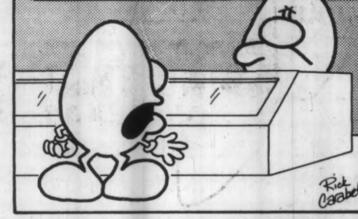
'An RCT is not a nurse," said AMA trustee Dr. Joseph Painter, a vice president of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. "It's not meant to be a nurse, and it's not meant to replace a nurse."

An RCT advisory committee made up of doctors, nurses and hospital officials will convene in January. Painter said the first pilot program should begin by mid-1989.

While the AMA delegates agreed that they must investigate short-term and long-term solutions to the national nursing shortage, the New York delegation proposed dropping any reference to RCTs. Scrambled Eggs

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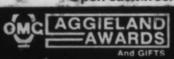
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## Abuse

Continued from page 1)

tity. Wilkins said she can't recall a case where the plaintiff's name was revealed.

"After receiving the referral, the caseworker writes up a report and determines how serious an abuse it is," Wilkins said.

"If we believe that the child is in immediate danger," she said, "then the case is a priority one and according to state guidelines we have to see the family within 24 hours. However, our unit policy is to go immedi-

ately after receiving the call."

If the caseworker believes the child is in danger, but not immediate danger, it is a priority two case and the caseworker has 10 days to see the family.

Age has a lot to do with how serious an abuse is.

"For instance, if we get a call on an infant who has a black eye, we go right away, but a 16-year-old with a black eye we can make a priority two," Wilkins said.

"Infants and up to school age have no way of protecting themselves. These are the reports we have to act on immediately," she said.

Wilkins said everything the DHS does is a two-man decision.

After receiving a referral, if the caseworker believes that the child is in immediate danger, she calls her supervisor and a decision is made on

"If we believe the parent isn't able to protect the child and that the child is going to be hurt further, we will remove the child from the home,"

"When we remove a child from the home, we present the parents with a formal notification telling why we believe it is necessary and inform the parents to get a lawyer."

The next working day after case-workers remove a child, they must

appear in court with an affidavit statwhy the removal was necessary. If the judge decides that there are grounds for a removal, a hearing is

DHS decides whether or not the child should remain under DHS care or enter foster care.

If the state wins the hearing, the

Also decided on by the DHS are the specific visiting times for the par-Wilkins said that after a trial pe-

riod of about six months, she will review the case and if all the stipulations are met, the child can be returned to the home.

'There's not a better place for a child to be than with the family, if that family is able to protect the child," Wilkins said.

Other agencies that receive re-ports of child abuse are churches, the police department, Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Family Outreach, Family Awareness and Friends of the Family

However, these agencies are required by law to report cases of child

abuse or neglect to DHS. Family Outreach and Family Awareness work in the community in a preventive effort to combat child

abuse and neglect. Julie Buffington, a child protective service specialist working with Family Outreach, works with high-

risk families. 'If someone reports a case to DHS, but no abuse or neglect has occurred, they refer it to us or another

agency," Buffington said. If the family wants help, Buffington assigns a volunteer. She said every four out of 10 want help.

All of Family Outreach's services are provided by volunteers. The volunteers have criminal and background checks done on them and go through an extensive 18-hour training program.

The volunteers work with the family as a teacher and role model in the home.

"For instance, right now we are working with a 14-year-old mother, so the volunteer is really just teaching her how to be a mother," Buffington said.

If someone can work with the family before any serious problems occur, usually an abusive situation can be avoided, she said.

"Prevention is the key," she said. Molly Archer, a caseworker with Family Awareness, said she teaches parents there is a difference between discipline and punishment.

"Many parents I deal with are good people," Archer said. "They ust get frustrated with a child and don't know what to do.

"A child pushes the parents too far and they strike out at the child. Something that might be said at this point is 'I wish you were never The average parent thinks child abuse is battering the child, she said.

The parent doesn't see the emotional abuse or understand it. "Many families I work with have

other problems beside parenting problems, such as budgeting money or running the household," Archer said. "I try to work with those problems also, in an effort to alleviate some of the pressures put on the

However, she said that sometimes she is unable to get with the family before an abuse occurs and she has to call DHS.

"I had a parent call and tell me she was having problems with her child," Archer said. "Halfway through the conversation, the lady let go of the telephone and I could hear her beating the child."

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## Illegal netting decreases in Texas bays

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) - Ille gal gill-netting of fish in coastal bay has decreased drastically since Sept I, when a new state regulation took effect banning all nets in salt water,

according to a state agency.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department figures for a comparison of October 1987 and October 1988 show an 81 percent decline in the amount of illegal netting seized, said Jim Robertson, supervisor of coasta law enforcement with the agency in Austin.

Records show 30,900 feet of gill nets were confiscated during that month of 1987, compared to 5,800 feet in October 1988.

Robertson said the illegal netting appears to have declined because of a combination of the netting ban and a one-year sting operation centered at Port Lavaca that culminated last

Parks and Wildlife filed 287 cases statewide against fishermen, restau-rants and wholesale businesses for ilegally purchasing or selling redfish and speckled trout.

Commercial fishing of redfish and speckled trout is illegal in Texas. Outlaw fishermen appear to be setting fewer nets and fish markets are wary of buying speckled trout or red fish, Robertson told the Corpus

Christi Caller-Times. Gill nets contain meshes that allow the head of a fish to enter, but en

tangle it as it tries to withdraw. Gary Young, a game warden at the agency's Corpus Christi law enforcement office, said one result of the netting ban has been for fishermen to switch to setting trotlines

Trotlines are legal in Texas but far less efficient than gill nets.

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