

Tuesday, July 18, 1989

Collision in Caldwell injures 6; spilled chemicals do no damage

By Mia B. Moody
STAFF WRITER

A head-on collision in Caldwell Friday afternoon hospitalized six people, but a strong odor was the only bad effect from the hazardous

chemicals spilled from one of the vehicles. Virgil Hurt, a Caldwell police officer, said the accident occurred at 1 p.m. at the intersection of Texas 21 and Texas 36 when Melba McNeil of Caldwell crossed over into the left lane in which Michael J. Bemis of

Austin was traveling. McNeil was alone and Bemis was traveling with four passengers. All six were taken to Burleson Memorial Hospital at the time of the accident, and five have been released. McNeil, transferred to Trinity Medical Center in Brenham, remained there as of Monday following surgery for broken bones in an arm and leg. Passengers in the truck included Joel Smith, Sam Steel, Barry Williams and John Robinson, all of Austin. "The accident not only hurt them, but could have hurt other citizens because of the chemicals which spilled during the collision," Hurt said.

The two types of chemicals, xylene and muriatic acid, can be dangerous to humans. Xylene is hazardous because it can be ignited; muriatic acid, a form of hydrochloric acid, can cause chemical burns on contact or damage lung tissue if inhaled.

The area was cleared by the Caldwell fire department and three other law enforcement agencies. "We cleaned the area by using lime and sand to neutralize the chemicals then they hauled the remainders off," he said.



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Firemen clean up a chemical spill resulting from a two-car accident Friday at the junction of Highways 21 and 36.

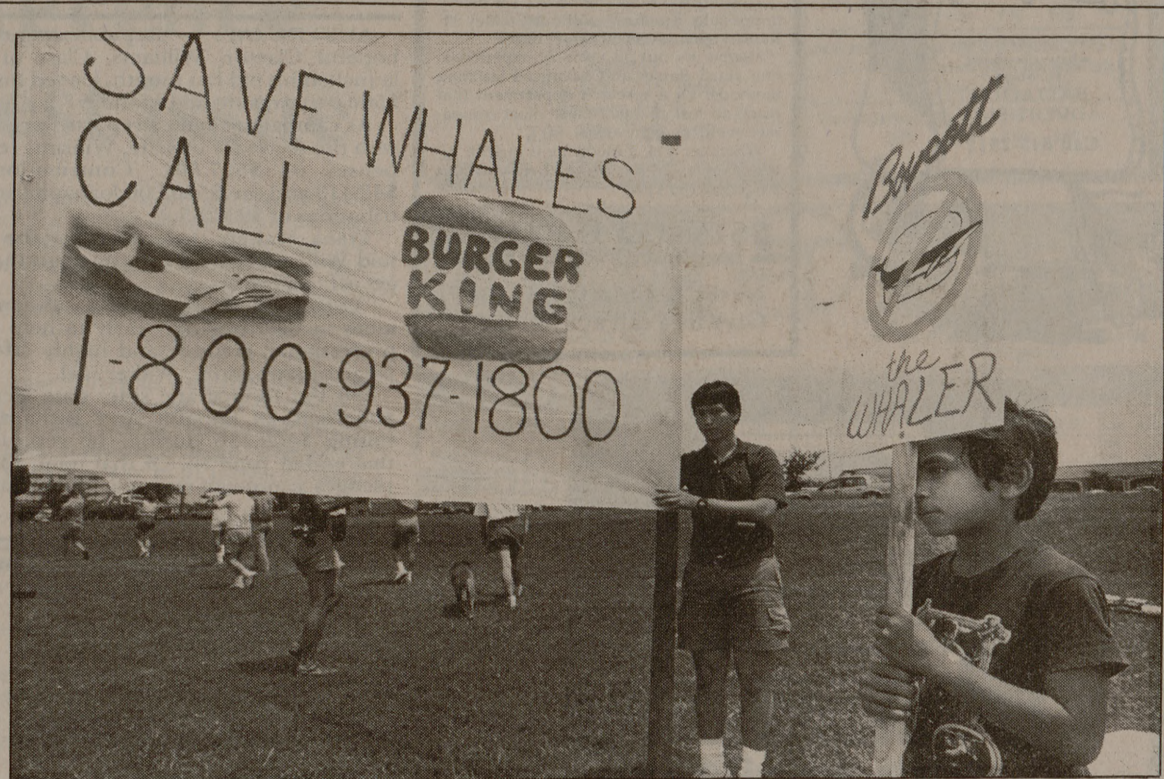


Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Seven-year-old Jugnu Ahluwalia was just one of several picketers marching outside

the Burger King on Texas Avenue Saturday afternoon.

Pickers hit Burger King

Icelandic whaling incurs wrath of protestors

By Mia B. Moody
STAFF WRITER

"Fish fry, whales die! Fish fry, whales die!" Chants used by anti-whaling protesters Saturday at Burger King summarized their concern of restaurants that buy fish from companies that kill Icelandic whales.

Michael Worsham, organizer of the protest, said the group was formed informally to protest Icelandic whaling.

"The whole idea is not to protest just Burger Kings, but any company that buys fish from companies that promote Icelandic whaling," Worsham said. "Burger King buys fish for its 'Whaler' sandwich from Icelandic suppliers."

Scott Cole, a senior wildlife ecology major from Tanzania, Africa, who participated in the protest, said many other restaurants already have broken multimillion dollar contracts with companies that

promote whaling. "Long John Silver's broke a \$9 million contract with the same company that Burger King does business with," he said. "Burger King is one of the few restaurants that continues to purchase fish from the whale killers."

Worsham said the country of Iceland has a policy that allows them to whale even though the International Whaling Commission has asked them not to.

"They get away with whaling by saying they are doing it for research purposes, when actually it is commercial," he said. "IWC doesn't have the power to enforce their recommendations. The U.S. government could pass a law which would enforce it but they haven't."

Cole said the protest was part of a national movement against Icelandic whaling. He said El Paso, Austin and Dallas are among the Texas areas where demonstrations were held Saturday.

"We hope that our efforts will be successful," Cole said. "If not, we will keep trying. We have protested twice in the fall and we will continue if we have to."

Workers' comp may not get resolved

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Bill Clements said Monday the special legislative session is on the verge of "absolute failure" over workers' compensation, as lawmakers remained at odds over ways to overhaul the system.

In a tense meeting of the House-Senate conference committee on workers' comp, each side blamed the other for the impasse over reforming the insurance system that compensates workers for on-the-job injuries.

In another development, momentum was picking up to disband the 10-member conference committee and call for a Senate vote on the House workers' comp proposal, which is backed by business interests.

"We met here for one purpose and one purpose only and that's for workers' compensation, and without workers' compensation, I certainly would not have" called lawmakers into a special session, Clements said.

"If we don't tend to that, then I would term the session an absolute failure," he said. The special session

ends Wednesday. Lawmakers failed to reach a compromise on workers' comp during the 140-day regular session. The issue reached legislators following an 18-month interim study of the Texas system, which has been criticized by employers for high insurance rates and by workers for low benefits.

Clements gave even odds that the Legislature would send him a reform bill.

"While I'm not optimistic, I think that the anticipation of coming back and being here in November might bring about a resolution of the problem," he said.

The governor has told lawmakers he will call another 30-day special session in November if they fail to pass a workers' comp bill.

The major disagreement is over establishing a method to resolve disputes between the insurance carrier and injured worker when either party is not satisfied by the compensation award.

An Invitation to Luxury... The Jewelry Express Card

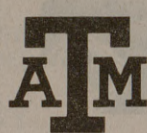
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1.61	5,475	8,450
1.51	4,225	7,950
1.44	1,875	3,950
1.43	5,550	8,950
1.20	9,240	14,500
1.18	2,675	4,550
1.17	2,950	3,950
1.11	2,650	3,850
1.09	3,075	5,500
1.06	2,450	3,995
1.03	3,850	6,950
1.03	2,550	4,995
1.03	2,325	4,495
1.03	2,950	5,500
1.01	2,375	4,295
1.00	2,150	3,995
.95	1,875	3,650
.93	1,595	2,950
.91	3,595	7,150
.91	3,150	6,395
.89	1,795	3,195
.85	1,975	3,750
.84	2,550	5,675
.83	1,595	2,750
.81	2,250	3,875
.76	1,360	2,495
.73	1,675	2,850
.72	1,595	2,795
.72	1,375	2,450
.71	1,175	1,995
.70	1,390	2,495
.70	1,350	2,350
.69	995	1,150
.65	595	995
.64	1,450	2,495
.64	895	1,595
.58	575	995
.55	695	1,195

Carat	Our Price	Compare at
.53	925	1,750
.52	1,095	2,195
.52	895	1,750
.51	1,095	2,195
.51	795	1,450
.50	795	1,450
.50	795	1,395
.49	550	995
.47	750	1,295
.46	695	1,150
.46	495	895
.44	595	1,095
.43	395	695
.42	595	995
.39	475	995
.38	295	650
.38	2375	4,295
.32	350	695
.30	335	650

Carat	Our Price	Compare at
.75	\$1,785	\$3,395
.58	1,375	2,495
.51	1,395	2,495

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.05	\$35
.08	\$48
.10	\$63
.15	\$111
.21	\$165

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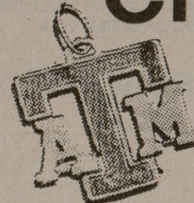
Carat	Our Price	Compare at
1.02	\$2,150	3,950
.99	2,950	5,495
.81	2,385	4,395
.73	1,975	3,750
.62	1,475	2,495
.52	1,325	2,450
.47	695	1,195
.33	395	750

Carat	Our Price	Compare at
2.11	\$4,950	\$9,250
1.61	5,875	10,200
1.11	2,850	5,495
1.10	1,450	2,650
1.03	2,875	5,395
.99	2,450	4,350
.71	1,450	2,200
.62	1,475	2,350
.58	1,095	1,995
.58	1,350	2,200
.53	1,325	2,200
.51	1,175	2,150
.50	1,050	1,995

Carat	Our Price	Compare
2.14	5,850	\$9,950
1.82	5,095	9,350
1.75	5,775	9,925
1.43	3,780	7,250
1.24	3,925	7,400
1.21	3,750	7,100
1.01	2,675	4,995
.72	1,985	3,850
.71	1,965	3,800
.64	1,295	2,395
.64	875	1,495
.62	1,485	2,395
.60	1,250	2,295
.58	995	1,795
.52	665	1,195
.51	1,240	2,350
.48	1,160	2,150

Carat	Our Price	Compare at
2.04	\$12,570	\$25,000
1.67	5,875	12,200
1.35	3,100	5,800
1.23	3,350	6,395
1.10	3,650	6,650
1.04	2,850	5,200
.98	2,475	4,395
.79	2,095	3,875
.72	2,325	3,895
.71	2,195	4,095
.71	2,050	3,995
.70	2,390	4,250
.70	1,995	3,450
.68	1,890	3,650
.64	1,385	3,495
.62	695	1,195
.55	985	1,895
.54	1,490	2,795
.52	1,050	2,295
.50	1,275	2,295
.48	1,225	2,250
.46	1,160	2,195
.39	875	1,595
.35	595	995

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