

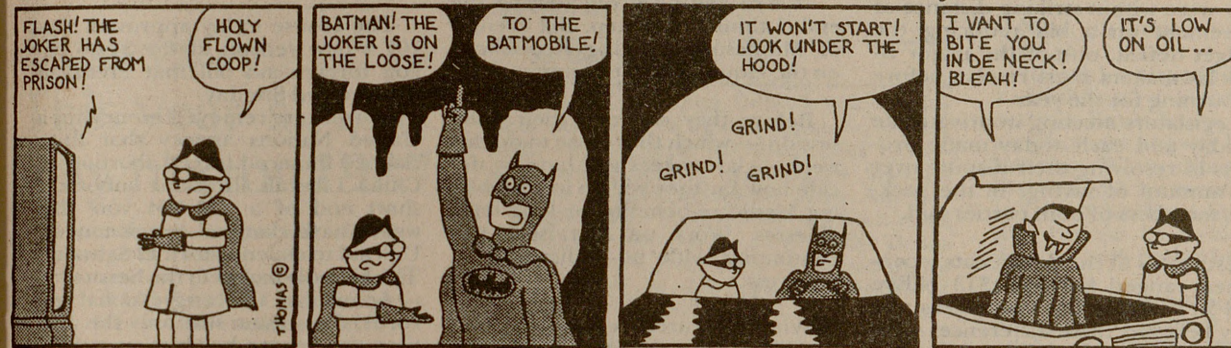
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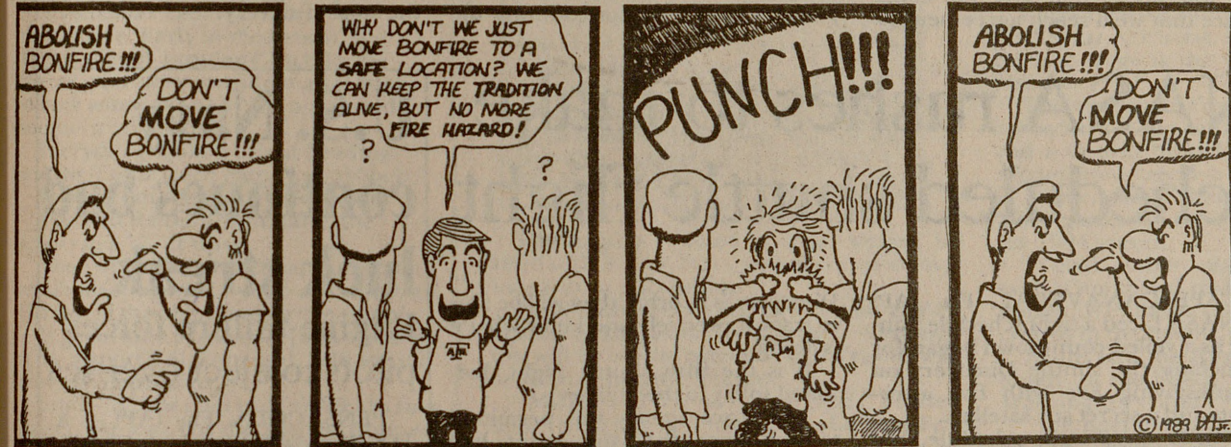
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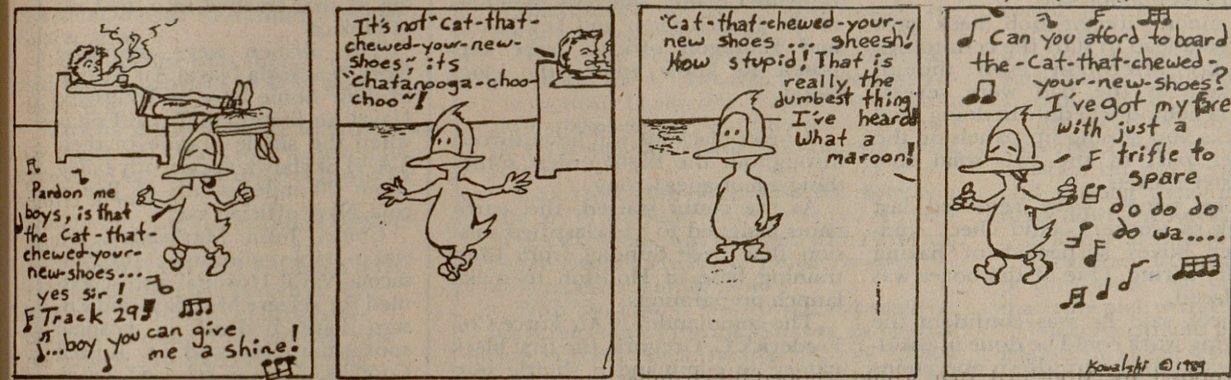
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Houston police fear shootings by officers will cause tension

HOUSTON (AP) — Some Houston police officers fear that concerns about two recent fatal shootings by police will grow into a frenzy, creating a tense atmosphere reminiscent of Dallas less than two years ago. "I have spoken with several Dallas officers about what's happening here, and they said it looks like we're in for a siege of the same," homicide Sgt. Brian Foster said Sunday. "They sent us their condolences." The animosity in Dallas was attributed to incidents in which white officers killed two black citizens who had called the police for help. Now, the same animosity may arise in Houston in the face of the deaths of Ida Lee Delaney, 50, and Byron Gillum, 24. "I'm afraid it's gonna happen again," Foster said, comparing Houston to Dallas. "We are getting similar press and political involvement. We are getting people on television at the funerals of these people saying don't ever trust police again. City Council has people screaming and fainting." The politicians and would-be politicians are whipping people into a frenzy long before all the facts are in, and we're going to have some people getting hurt as a result," Foster said. "We have a climate of fear that the citizens have been drawn into by the stumping politicians and sensationalized media." The citizens are afraid of the police, and the police are afraid to act, Foster said. The Dallas emotions peaked in January of 1988, when a Dallas officer, John Chase, was gunned down by

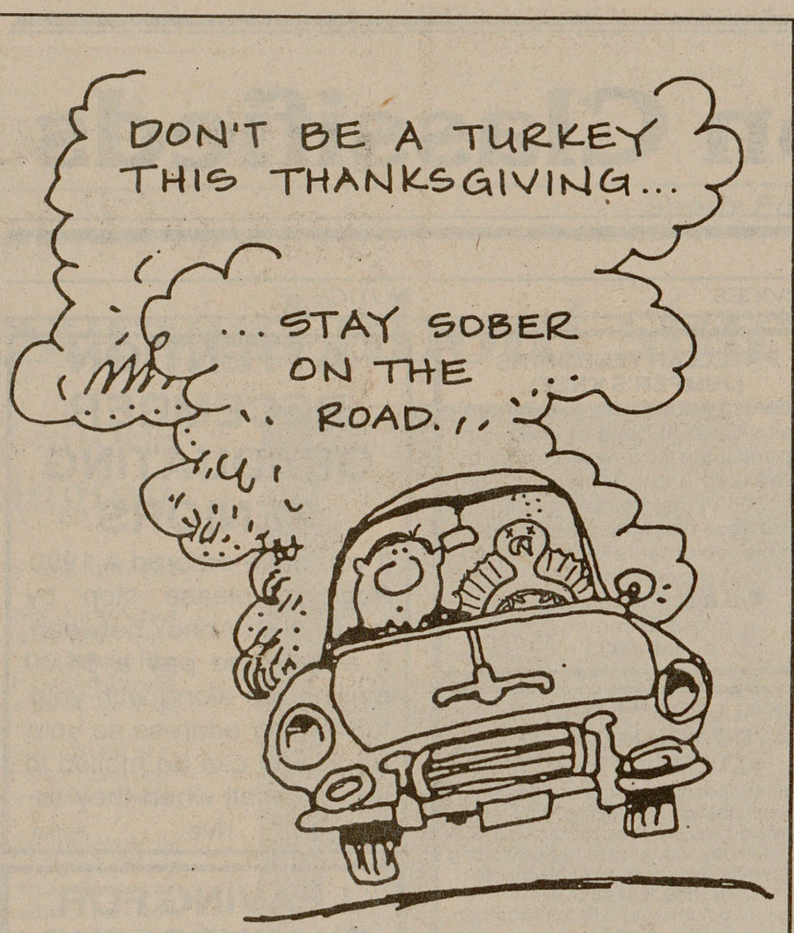
a mentally disturbed man as onlookers urged the man to shoot the officer. The political firestorm in Dallas was doused by the appointment in August 1988 of Police Chief Mack Vines from Cape Coral, Fla., replacing Billy Prince. Vines was credited with smoothing relations between the department and the community. And because Houston has a police chief whose style appears to be similar to Vines, Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price is surprised at what's been occurring in Houston. "It seems like Houston's returning to its old ways," Price said Sunday. "I'm surprised, with (Police Chief) Lee Brown being there." Ed Spencer, a Dallas Police Department spokesman, said the number of officer-involved shootings in Dallas has decreased since Vines' arrival. The Dallas Police Department also changed its policy regarding patrols to a two-man patrol system after the murder of Chase, who was patrolling alone, Spencer said. The majority of Houston officers — male and female — patrol solo, Foster said. Price said those dissatisfied with Dallas police aren't pinning all their hopes on Vines. That's why they wanted — and still want — a civilian review board with subpoena power. Amid the outcry surrounding recent police incidents in Houston, there have been demands for the creation of such a board here. Mayor Kathy Whitmire endorsed the idea last week.

Lawmakers urge appellate court to retry inmate after 2-year delay

AUSTIN (AP) — A group of state legislators Monday urged the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to quickly decide the case of Clarence Brandley, who remains on Death Row more than two years after a new trial was recommended for him. "We're asking them to get off their rear ends and move and act and do their jobs," Rep. Lloyd Criss, D-La Marque, said, noting that the appeals court has failed to issue a decision even though a new trial was recommended in October 1987. "Maybe they haven't had enough time," Rep. Harold Dutton, D-Houston, said. "But today we're going to ask them to forget their lunch hours, get to work on time, work beyond five o'clock, because we believe they can resolve this issue." Brandley, a black janitor at Conroe High School, was convicted in the 1980 rape-slaying of Cheryl Ferguson, a 16-year-old white girl, at the school. His first trial ended with a hung jury. An all-white jury found him guilty in a second trial. On Oct. 9, 1987, after a 10-day evidentiary hearing moved from Conroe to Galveston, retired State District Judge Perry Pickett recommended that Brandley get a new trial because the previous two had been tainted with racism. Brandley has said he believes that a third trial would clear him. Defense attorney Paul Nugent of Houston argued before the Court of Criminal Appeals last January that the investigations and judicial proceedings leading to Brandley's capital murder conviction were tainted by racial discrimination. Brandley's attorneys have offered evidence that police and Montgomery County prosecutors had set out to prove that Brandley, the only black janitor at the school, was guilty rather than seeking the real killer. Prosecutors, who have maintained that Brandley is guilty, have denied allegations that he was the subject of racial discrimination. Criss said he and other lawmakers are introducing a resolution in the Texas House this week calling on the Court of Criminal Appeals, the state's highest criminal court, to take prompt action.

Washington reporter to speak in Rudder

David Hoffman, White House reporter of the Washington Post will speak Tuesday, Nov. 21, at 5:30 p.m. in Rudder 301. Hoffman is the second guest with White House experience to appear before Peter Roussel's class, Mass Media and the Presidency. Roussel, formerly an assistant to President Bush, is a visiting lecturer in the Department of Journalism. Former presidential spokesman Larry Speakes spoke last week. Hoffman's lecture is open to all faculty and students.



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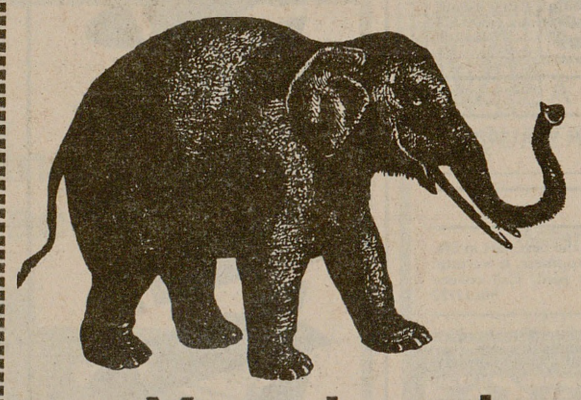
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