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State plans to improve health care

AUSTIN (AP) — A state plan to improve inadequate mental health care for hundreds of disabled people living in near-isolation in Medina County was filed in federal court Tuesday.

The plan states that the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation will ask its board for more money for Medina County services.

It also says the department will "make a good-faith effort" to provide mental health services, food, clothing and shelter to mentally ill residents who are suing the state in federal court for better care.

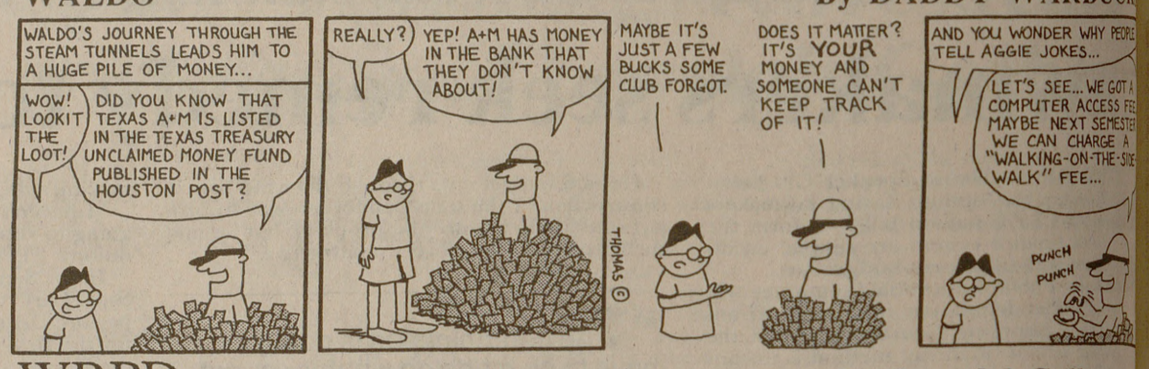
U.S. District Judge Barefoot Sanders ordered the state to correct mental health care deficiencies found near the Medina County town of Devine after court monitors recently discovered scores of disabled people living in crowded boarding homes and other community facilities.

Austin-area social workers and attorneys for the mentally ill plaintiffs immediately denounced the plan as too vague.

"It doesn't say what will be done, and therefore, it is not adequate," Austin social worker David Pharis said.

Dr. David Bean, deputy MHMR commissioner for mental health, said the department plans to hire nine workers, buy a $40,000 bus to transport rural residents to a mental health clinic, and ask its board to spend an additional $375,319 in 1990-91 on Medina County mental health services, although those details were not included in the plan.

WALDO By DADDY WARBUCK



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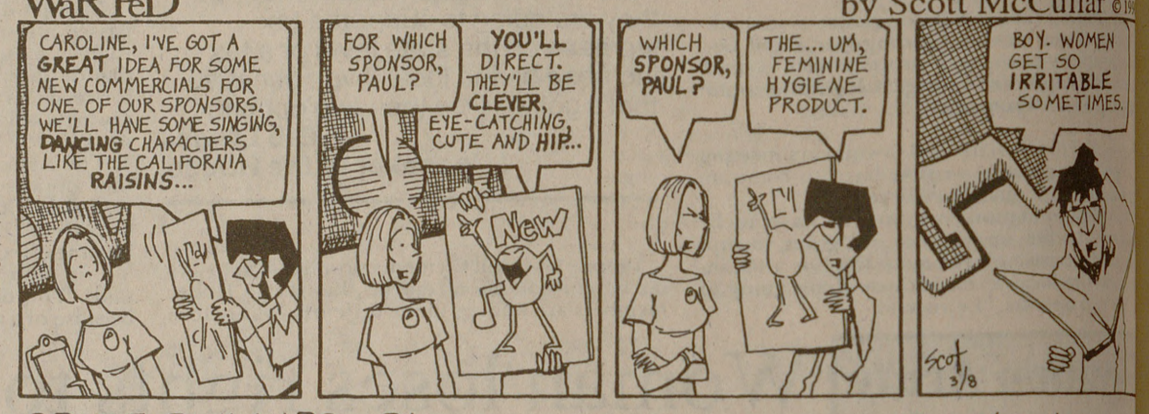
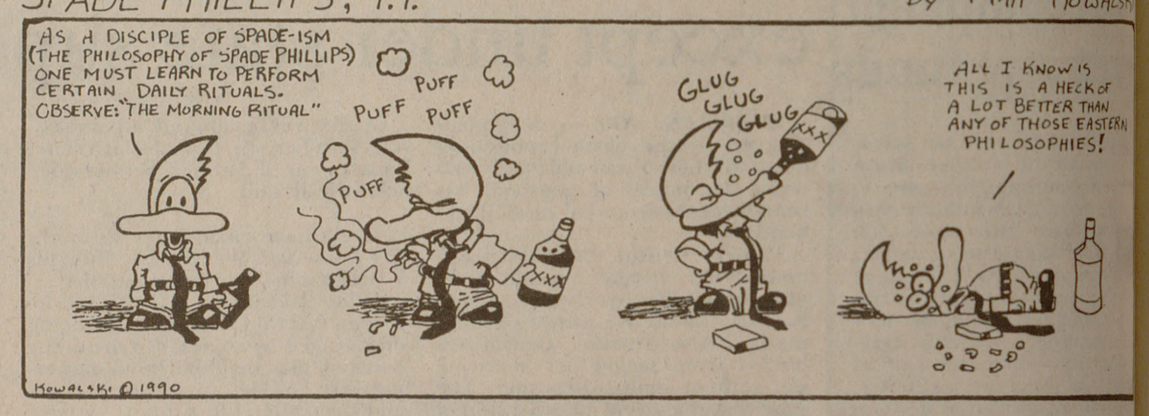


SPADE PHILLIPS, P.I. By MATT KOWALSKI



Subway train derailment traps passengers, kills 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A subway train derailed and smashed into a support beam during Wednesday morning's rush hour, shearing one car "like a sardine can." The crash killed three people, injured 130 and left some trapped for hours.

Officials said it is the worst accident in the 21 years the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority has operated the regional commuter system.

Doctors amputated the right leg of one woman to free her from the wreckage of the six-car train. But the woman died four hours later of complications from a second broken leg and severe chest injuries, Hahnemann University Hospital spokeswoman Linda Clossey said.

> "The second and third cars were bent and the whole side of the second car was torn off. It was peeled like a sardine can."
>
> **— Mark Robinson, passenger**

Of the 130 people treated at hospitals, five were in critical condition at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, and 35 were discharged by early afternoon.

All three of the dead were among seven passengers trapped in the wreckage, authorities said.

Rescuers, aided by a mobile surgical team and special cutting equipment, freed the last two people nearly five hours after the accident, police Commissioner Willie Williams said.

Transit officials said they were looking into a report that a dragging electric motor on one of the cars may have caused the derailment.

Conductor Steven Young said the train had just left the station when it suddenly pitched to the left. A tunnel support beam crashed through the side of his car and into a group of people.

"One was alive, and I watched him die," Young said. "I tried to comfort him."

The train hit three support beams two blocks from its last station stop. A preliminary inspection indicated there was no danger of a cave-in, said transit inspector James Sweeney.

"I was in the first car and as we went through the station, you could hear the train hit something, like something was dragging. It went bam, bam, bam," said Mark Robinson of Philadelphia, on his way home from an overnight cashier's job.

"We got moving pretty good and then it seemed like it got bumpy all of a sudden," Ray Baker, headed to a teaching job in west Philadelphia, said.

Inspectors said they found splintered ties on the right side of the tracks. They said the last three cars apparently jumped the rails and fishtailed into the support beams.

"The second and third cars were bent and the whole side of the second car was torn off," Robinson said. "It was peeled like a sardine can."

The train had pulled out of 30th Street station after an 8:30 a.m. stop. The station links with Amtrak trains and commuter trains serving the suburbs.

"People were screaming," passenger Robert Rogers said. "It was dark, and people were going left and right and were falling off the tracks and stuff."

The power in the subway tunnels was cut off to protect rescuers.

The transit authority said it had no passenger count for the train. The capacity for each car was listed at 200 people and passengers said there was standing room only.

Traffic in the area was virtually shut down as emergency vehicles arrived on the scene. The transit agency had to shut down the east-west subway line and also trolleys that go underground four blocks away from 30th Street station to complete their trip to downtown.

Homeowners win settlement over waste site

HOUSTON (AP) — Twelve companies settled a lawsuit with 207 Highland residents over a hazardous waste site homeowners said has ruined their health and property values in the last decade.

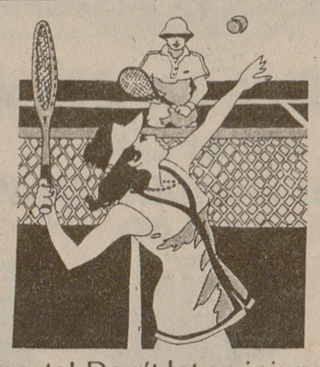
Exxon led the list of companies that settled with homeowners for an undisclosed amount for allegedly dumping hazardous materials at Liberty Waste Disposal Co.

Parties would not disclose terms of the settlement, made final Monday by state District Judge Hugo Touchy, but an environmental group that supported the homeowners' fight estimated the dollar value at $3.9 million.

"The amount can't be confirmed, but those involved have told me what it is," Rick Abraham, spokesman for Texans United, said. "I understand the largest share is to be paid by Exxon, who was the largest disposer of waste at the site."

Walter Conrad and Jim Smith of Houston, lead attorneys for the companies, were out of town and could not be reached for comment.

Besides Exxon, other companies signing the agreement were Lubrizol Corp., Stauffer Chemical, Carpenter Chemical Co., HL&P, Phillips Chemical, U.S. Steel, Atlantic Richfield (Arco Chemical), J.M. Huber Corp., North Star Steel Texas, Hercules Inc. and Rohm & Haus.



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Symptomatic patients with recent physician diagnosed, irritable bowel syndrome to participate in a short research study. $100 incentive for those chosen to participate.
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Individuals with high blood pressure, either on or off blood pressure medication daily to participate in a high blood pressure study. $300 incentive for those chosen to participate.
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Individual with recent lower back or neck pain, sprain, strains, muscle spasms, or painful muscular sport injury to participate in a one week research study. $100 incentive for those chosen to participate.
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What's Up

Thursday

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS PROGRAM: applications are due March 21. Call the College of Education Undergraduate Office for more information.

TAMU HORTICULTURE SOCIETY: will have a work party at 5 p.m. in the Horticulture Club Greenhouses. Contact Marianna at 823-3414 for more information.

AGGIE PLAYERS: present "Gambler's House." Tickets are $4 for students and $5 for the general public. Call 845-2621 for more information.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY HOMETOWN CLUB: will have a meeting and dinner at 7 p.m. in Wings 'N Things. Contact Eunice at 693-1094 for more information.

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE: will have a table in the main hallway of MSC from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 845-0544 for more information.

PI SIGMA EPSILON: will be selling various Miller Beer items from 9 a.m.to 5 p.m. in the mall area behind the Academic Building. Contact Carlos at 847-4181 for more information.

TEXAS A&M EMERGENCY CARE TEAM: will have their regular bimonthly meeting at 6 p.m. in 301 Rudder. Contact Michelle at 845-4321 for more information.

CENTER FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS: will have a seminar series on software entrepreneurship at 4 p.m. in 457 Blocker. Call 845-1618 for more information.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AERONAUTICS AND ASTRONAUTICS: will have a special guest lecture: 'Something Funny Happened On The Way To The Moon' at 6 p.m. in 102 Zachry. Call 846-4673 for more information.

MANAGEMENT SOCIETY: will have a San Antonio field trip informational meeting at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd floor of Blocker.

MEXICAN-AMERICAN ENGINEERING SOCIETY: will have a guest speaker from NASA, Ralph Gonzales, at 7 p.m. in 302 Rudder. Contact Rebecca at 696-8004 for more information.

FOURTH DAY: will have a discussion at 6:15 p.m. in St. Mary's Student Center. Call 846-5718 for more information.

ABSENTEE VOTING: in 138 and 142 MSC.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general discussion at 8:30 p.m. Call CDPE at 845-0280 for more information.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general discussion at noon. Call CDPE at 845-0280 for more information.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: will have a general discussion at 6 p.m. Call CDPE at 845-0280 for more information.

NAVAL AVIATION SOCIETY: will have an Aeronautical Navigation Class at 7 p.m. in 108 Trigon. Contact Jay at 847-3593 for more information.

A&M HILLEL: will have an Aggie Purim Party at 8 p.m. in Hillel Jewish Student Center. Call 847-7680 for more information.

UNITED STATES STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: will have a general meeting at 7 p.m. in Bizzell Hall West basement. Contact Alan at 847-1878 for more information.

Friday

BLOOMBURGS "BACK HOME CLUB": will be planning spring break activities at 3 p.m. at 205 W. George Bush Dr. #216. Call Mitch at 764-8609 for more information.

A&M HILLEL: will have Shabbat services at 8 p.m. at the Hillel Jewish Student Center. Call 847-7680 for more information.

BOWLING CLUB: will meet at 6 p.m. at the Chimney Hill Bowling Center. No league until March 23. Call 764-2980 for more information.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.